■ NEWS / A2

Missing Air Force captain in Ninoy Aquino slay ordered arrested in US

■ BUSINESS / B1

HSBC offers OFWs cheaper cash transfer costs, microbusinesses

■ NEWS / A3

Joey Marquez's 2 kids, Alma Moreno detained in Japan

■ WORLD / A8

2,200 firms paid Saddam $1.8B in kickbacks under UN oil-for-food program

Bring your own gun if you want to be a cop

PAANO MATA-TAKOT ANG MGA KRIMINAL NYAN?

By Philip C. Tubeza

"BRING YOUR OWN GUN." Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said the Philippine National Police had informed his committee that some 21,204 policemen

BRING/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA appoints Tiglao ambassador to Greece

By Christine Avendaño

RIGOBERTO TIGLAO, THE CHIEF OF THE Presidential Management Staff, has been appointed ambassador to Greece by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The former journalist and INQUIRER columnist has accepted the appointment.

GMA/ A11

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, October 29, 2005 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 323 P18 website: www.inq7.net

It's death for 3 bombers

2 Filipinos, 1 Indonesian sentenced for Valentine's Day blasts

By Luige A. del Puerto and Tarra V. Quismundo

THEIR HEADS WERE BOWED AND THE BRAGGADOCIO WAS gone when the court yesterday condemned them to die by lethal injection.

The only hitch in the otherwise smooth proceedings came when Makati City Judge Marissa Macaraig-Guillen ordered guards to remove the handcuffs of the three defendants in last Feb. 14's Makati bus bombing.

The guards had forgotten the keys to the cuffs of Indonesian Rohmat Abdurrohim and only he remained shackled as he and his two Filipino co-defendants stood before the judge to hear the verdict.

"Considering the particularly brutal and cold-blooded manner by which the crimes were committed, where no thought was given to the welfare of any of the hapless victims, be they man, woman or child, this court would be utterly remiss in its duty to render justice if it were not to impose the maximum penalty," Guillen said in her decision.

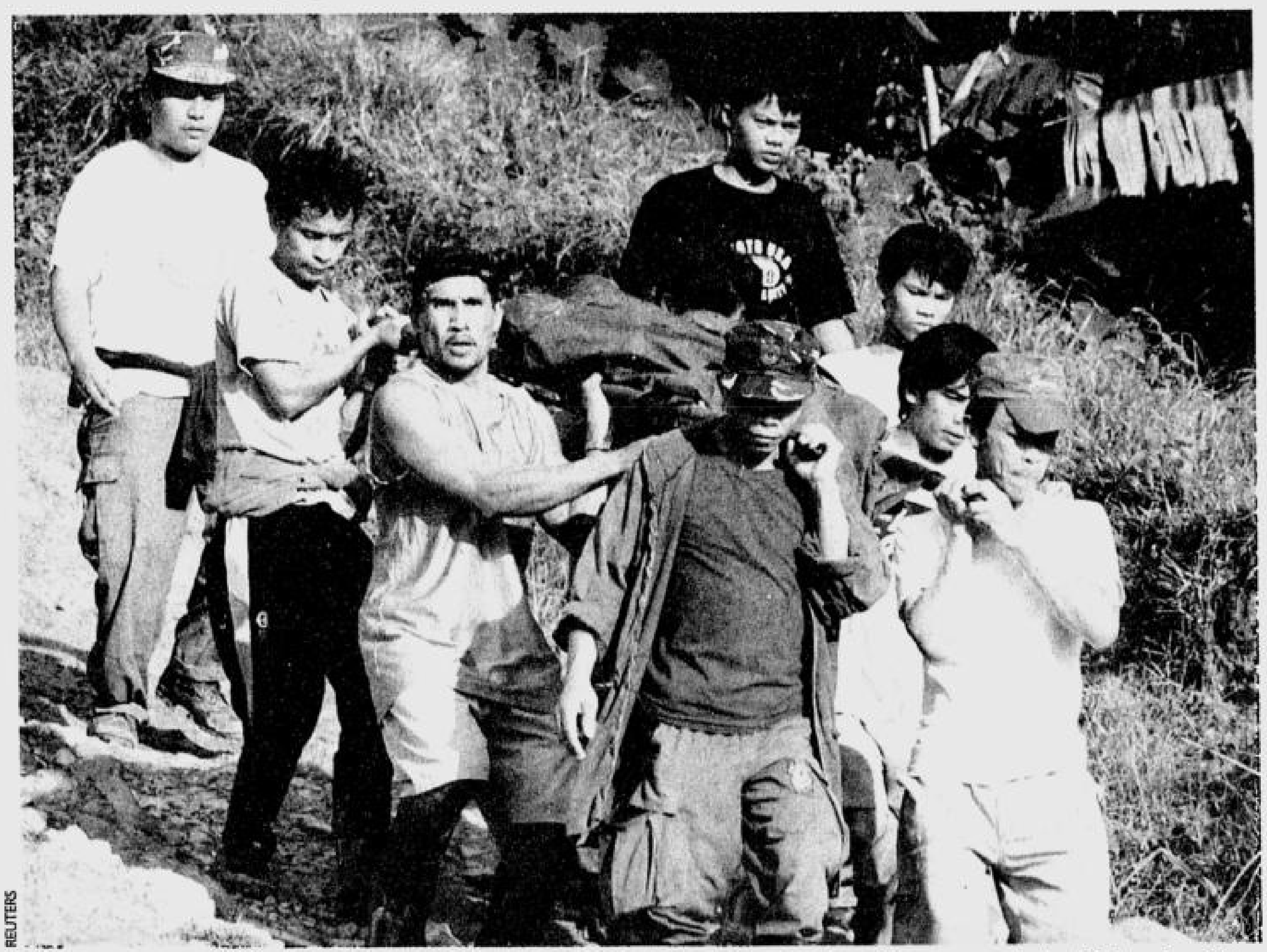
The verdict should "serve as ... an example for those who would seek to instill fear and panic in our cities through mayhem

IT'S DEATH/ A10

REM ZAMORA

GUILTY AS CHARGED. Angelo Trinidad (left), Gamal Baharan (middle) and Indonesian Rohmat, a confessed member of the Jemaah Islamiyah, listen as the Makati Regional Trial Court issues a guilty verdict and sentences them to die by lethal injection.

Gold digging in collapsed tunnels unauthorized



REUTERS

A GRAVE MISSION. Miners carry one of their colleagues who died after a tunnel collapsed due to an explosion Wednesday night at a gold mine in Mt. Diwalwal in Compostela Valley. A search and rescue team reportedly can't get to many others who may be trapped due to thick fumes emanating from the tunnel.

By Dennis Jay Santos and Joselle dR. Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Norman Bordadora

MT. DIWATA, COMPOSTELA VALLEY Province—Environment officials said yesterday they had not authorized gold digging operations in mine tunnels on Mt. Diwata (Diwalwal) which were brought down by three underground explosions.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources initially said 18 people were killed in Wednesday's blasts, with possibly up to 75 still trapped underneath. But Environment Undersecretary Deinrado Dimalibot last night corrected the figure to six dead and only 11 missing.

The revised figures tallied with the figures supplied by the Office of Civil Defense and by officials of JB (Brillantes) Mining Corp. which owns the Sunshine tunnel hit by the explosions 800 meters from the mine site's portal.

The INQUIRER learned that a seventh miner had died in a hospital. Eleven other miners survived the explosions.

Company officials said the 11 others trapped were feared dead.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said the mining operations at the site of the Wednesday night blasts were not sanctioned by his department.

Initial reports reaching the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed that the accumulation of explosive gas from rotting timber inside the mine tunnels could have triggered the blast.

A DENR undersecretary, on the other hand, said that banned explosives could have been smuggled inside the mines to assist in the

GOLD/ A6

Palace does not believe FVR link to coup

MALACAÑANG DOES NOT BElieve that former President Fidel V. Ramos was involved in a planned coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo, as a supposed report by the US Embassy in Manila had alleged.

"We all know the character of President Ramos. He believes in the Constitution and he respects duly constituted authority," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said at a briefing.

When reminded that Ramos was involved in a coup to topple then President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, Bunye said: "It was a different situation [then], it's a different situation now."

According to Bunye, even the "Ramos boys" in the Arroyo administration do not believe the report dated Feb. 24, 2005: "In this present Cabinet, there are a lot who are close to him, including myself, Executive Secretary (Eduardo) Ermita, (Transportation) Secretary (Leandro) Mendoza, and (Public Works) Secretary (Hermogenes) Ebdane—and we all believe the former President is not capable of doing what is being alleged against him."

The US Embassy again declined to comment on the report, one of a series assessing the volatile Philippine political situation, and a copy of which is the latest to be obtained by the INQUIRER.

"We have a long-standing prac-

PALACE/ A6

Cardinal Vidal: Not proper to use Mass for politics

By Christian V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Labog-Javellana.

CEBU CITY—IT'S NOT PROPER to use the Mass as a "decoration" in political gatherings, according to Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, who seems more than willing to abide by the no-Mass-for-the-opposition policy around Malacañang.

"There has to be great respect for the Mass. It should not be used just for any purpose," he told reporters yesterday. "To make that as an instrument (for political means), is not proper. The Mass is the highest point of unity."

Vidal has banned the celebration of the Eucharist in any political gathering in his archdiocese since the 1980s, especially those held in the guise of "ecumenical prayers."

"I saw that the people were distracted. They were not paying attention to the Mass anymore," he said.

Activist priest Fr. Robert

CARDINAL/ A6

4.5-M PLAYERS

Billiards now truly game for the masses

BILLIARDS, THE TABLE GAME which used to be associated with dropouts and shady characters, tawdry parlors, gambling and other unsavory vices, has caromed out of notoriety and into mainstream respectability.

So says the Social Weather Stations, whose survey in the third quarter of 2005 disclosed that billiards has become a mass activity in the Philippines, with at least 4.5 million regular players and an assured television audience of at least 4 million.

SWS said the figures resulted from multiplying the national population of 50.4 million adults by its nationwide survey findings of 9 percent who played billiards within the last 30 days and 8 percent who admitted they always watched it on TV.

The figures could be larger, says the polling outfit, noting that its survey covered only

BILLIARDS/ A6

DBM fire a cover-up, opposition claims

REM ZAMORA

UP IN SMOKE. Budget Secretary Romulo Neri inspects the damage caused by the fire that destroyed computer servers in his office in San Miguel, Manila, early Friday morning.

By Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño and Margaux C. Ortiz

OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS ACCUSED THE Arroyo administration of responsibility for the fire that hit the Department of Budget and Management early yesterday, saying it was meant to destroy documents concerning the controversial disbursement of the P728-million fertilizer fund.

According to Senate Minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico, the fire at the "critical" computer server room of the DBM in San Miguel, Manila, was an attempt to cover up the alleged diversion of the fund to President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign last year, and other possible financial scams.

They urged fire investigators to determine if arson was involved.

But SFO1 Rodelio Nelvis said faulty electri-

DBM/ A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/29/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

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Ninoy slay case 'reopened'

Sandigan orders arrest of missing PAF captain

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN 3RD DIVISION YESTERday ordered the arrest of a former Air Force captain, Felipe Valerio, a suspect in the 1983 assassination of opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., a move that virtually reopens the Aquino-Galman double murder case.

Persida Rueda-Acosta, the chief of the Public Attorneys' Office, hailed the court ruling as a "big break" for the the 15 who were convicted of killing Aquino and Rolando Galman, the supposed assassin who was gunned down immediately after Aquino was killed.

Acosta had filed the motion for an alias warrant for Valerio in behalf of the 15 soldiers, many of whom she claims to be innocent of the crime.

An alias warrant of arrest is a reiteration of a previously issued warrant of arrest.

An arrest warrant had been issued against Valerio but up to the time that the case was decided in 1990, the court failed to acquire jurisdiction over him. The case against him was thus archived.

The Aquino-Galman double murder case has been closed for more than 15 years now, following the conviction on Sept. 28, 1990 of 15 soldiers. The conviction was later upheld by the Supreme Court.

"If he (Valerio) is arrested and the case is set for hearing, the case will be deemed reopened," Acosta said.

Acosta has said she had to resort to the "drastic move" of asking the Sandiganbayan to order Valerio's arrest after the Supreme Court denied early this year a PAO petition to reopen the case on the ground that new evidence had surfaced which would clear the convicted soldiers.

In issuing the alias warrant, the 3rd Division ruled that the issuance of the warrant was mandatory under the rules and that there was no longer any need for the prosecution to file a comment.

Valerio was the leader of the special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team assigned to provide security for Aquino when he returned from exile in 1983.

M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez, one of the 15 convicted soldiers, testified that Valerio was the one who was in direct communication with the people who had ordered the killing of Aquino.

Valerio escaped while the case was under investigation but was reported to have surfaced last year in Seattle, Washington where he has been working as a pilot for a local airline.

"The first thing is to find him, so we can begin hearing the case. We are ready for re-trial. We have more than 20 witnesses lined up already with more expected to come out once the case is formally reopened," Acosta said.

Dante Jimenez, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) founding chairperson, said his group was prepared to help effect the arrest of Valerio as soon as possible.

"We will circulate the warrant through our networks here and abroad. We will catch up with Valerio even if he is hiding in the US or in Australia," Jimenez said.

People's court to conclude GMA 'trial' before Christmas

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE CITIZENS' CONGRESS FOR Truth and Accountability or people's court intends to finish its "trial" of President Macapagal-Arroyo for alleged electoral fraud, human rights violations and corruption before Christmas, according to human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong.

With or without Ms Arroyo's participation, the people's court is preparing to hear evidence of the charges against the President next month, he said.

The court headed by the Presidium, a panel of 9 to 12 presiding officers led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, would begin accepting evidence on Nov. 8 to 9 in which "presentors" will first present evidence on electoral fraud.

The next hearing on Nov. 15 and 16 will allow presentors to produce evidence on Ms Arroyo's alleged human rights violations and bribery and corruption.

Led by Capulong, the presentors will take the role of the prosecution team in a criminal court.

The body of evidence will then be transmitted to Ms Arroyo so she could contest, rebut and negate the charges within 30 days.

"Then the body of evidence, along with her comments, will be transmitted back to Citizens' Congress which will be composed of about 400 delegates coming from various sectors of society," said Capulong.

He, however, stressed that the presidium would not pass judgment on the charges but would ensure that the respondent's rights were safeguarded through the application of the Rules of Procedures and Rules of Evidence during the proceedings.

Akin to the jury system, the 400-member Citizen's Congress would hand down the final judgment and a "call to action," he said.

Capulong explained that the tribunal would try to "discover evidence which were not completed during the aborted impeachment trial" of Ms Arroyo last September.

Asked if they expect Ms Arroyo to submit herself to the body, fellow presentor JV Bautista said: "Who knows, maybe Atty. Pedro Ferrer will enter his appearance."

It was Ferrer, on behalf of Ms Arroyo, who had sought to quash the impeachment complaints even before the House justice committee could begin the impeachment proceedings.

Graft case vs Soriquez upheld

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS rejected the bid of public works undersecretary Florante Soriquez to stop the Sandiganbayan from hearing the graft charges filed against him in connection with the controversial Megadike project in Pampanga.

In its Oct. 25 ruling, the high tribunal upheld the Sandiganbayan's decision to deny Soriquez's motion to dismiss the case for lack of evidence, saying there was no grave abuse of discretion.

"There is no showing that the conclusion made by the respondent court on the sufficiency of the evidence of the prosecution is manifestly mistaken or grounded entirely on speculation and conjectures," the SC said.

Soriquez had claimed before the Sandiganbayan that the evidence the prosecution presented was insufficient to warrant his conviction.

He was earlier arraigned and pleaded "not guilty" to charges that he allegedly conspired to allow Atlantic Erectors, a private contractor, to deviate from the design plans on the Megadike which eventually collapsed.

Soriquez was head of the Mt. Pinatubo Rehabilitation-Project Management Office when the Megadike (Pasig-Potrero River Diking System) was built. The P2.7 billion dike was meant to protect Pampanga from lahar flow from Mt. Pinatubo.

The SC said the prosecution was able to prove that Soriquez was one of the officials who recommended the defective design of the Megadike, and was also responsible for having the said design approved by the public works secretary.

"The prosecution's evidence established a prima facie proof of petitioner's guilt," the SC said.

Opening of Naia 3 delayed anew to '06

THE GOVERNMENT SAID on Friday it was again delaying the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, earlier seized from a consortium led by Germany's Fraport AG, from December to early next year.

"We cannot make it this December. That is now out of the question," Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza told reporters.

"I can't tell the exact date but our target will be sometime in the first quarter of next year," he said.

Mendoza said the new target for the commercial launch of the new facility would depend on the airlines, as the government did not want to disrupt operations around the peak season for the aviation industry that runs from November to March.

He said equipment, particularly computers, and other facilities also needed to be tested. "We want the terminal to be glitch-free," he added.

Naia Terminal 3, designed to handle 13 million passengers per year, originally was due to open late in 2002, but the Supreme Court invalidated the contract in May of that year.

The high court ruled the deal signed by the administration of President Joseph Estrada, who is now on trial on graft charges after he was removed from power in 2001, was illegal and fraught with irregularities.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's government seized the terminal in December 2004 after a two-year deadlock. It had said it wanted to finally open the airport at the end of this year. *Reuters*

BIR exec dismissed for graft

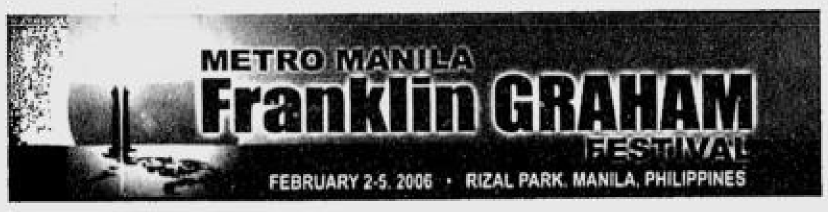
THE OMBUDSMAN'S office has dismissed from service a revenue officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for amassing unexplained wealth, including real estate properties in various provinces.

Jaime G. Marzan, who has an annual salary of only P201,504 (or P16,792 a month), was found to have several properties, which he failed to disclose in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Marzan, a rank IV revenue officer and supervisor of the Revenue District Office of Paco and Pandacan in Manila, was found guilty of violating RA 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

The complaint alleged that Marzan failed to declare the following properties: a 550-sq-m residential lot with a two-story commercial building in Calaguian, Burgos, Isabela worth P965,000; a 1,605-sq-m residential lot, also with a two-story commercial building and a warehouse in Calaguian, Burgos, Isabela worth P4.12 million; and a building worth P1.5 million in Laoag City.

Michelle V. Remo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Bible Baptist Church (Quezon City) # 4 Road 12, Proj. 8, Quezon City	**Bethany Baptist Church (Makati)** 1716 Dian St., Bgy. Palanan, Makati City	**All For Christ** #215 Mañalac Ave., Brgy. Tanyag, Taguig City	**Jesus Loves You Celebration Church** Unit 7 Star Mall Apartelle, EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	**Alabang New Life Christian Center** #2 Don Manalo Blvd., near Alabang Hills Alabang, Muntinlupa City	**Abundant Life Baptist Church** 89 A. Gen. Luna St., Ampid 1, San Mateo, Rizal
Christ The Living Savior Fellowship PRCB Complex, Tanay Plaza, Tanay, Rizal	**Bible Baptist Temple (Pasig)** 271 M. Concepcion St., Sebastian Lane 1 San Joaquin, Pasig City	**Caloocan Bible Church** #72 Lapu-Lapu St., Caloocan City	**Christ Commission Fellowship (Alabang)** 3/F CCF Alabang Bldg. Prima St. Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	**Cathedral Of Praise (Manila)** #350 Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila	**IRM Church (Marikina)** #129 A Bonifacio Ave., Tañong, Marikina City
Crusade Bible Church #96 Don Jose St., Brgy. Sienna Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City	**Christ To The Philippines** #11 Magsaysay St., Zone 6, Signal Village, Taguig City	**IEMELIF (Parañaque)** 1st Villamar St., Tambo, Parañaque City	**Christ Is Coming** #56 Road 8 Cor. Road 3, Proj. 6, Quezon City	**Greenhills Christian Fellowship (Ortigas)** Ruby cor. Garnet Rds., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	**Jesus Christ the Savior Int'l. Assemblies** Bankers Village II Quirino Hi-way, Tala, Caloocan City
Family of Lord Jesus Lot. 41 Road 24, Cogeo Village, Antipolo City	**IEMELIF (Sta. Mesa)** 3659 Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. Sta. Mesa, Manila	**New Millennium Evangelical Church** #770 Gen. Malvar, Malate, Manila	**Jesus Christ Saves Global Outreach** #156 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City	**Jubilee Evangelical Church** Doña Hemady cor. 3rd Sts., New Manila Quezon City	**Makati Gospel Church** 7650 Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Jesus Unlimited God Assembly of God Church #117 Gen. Luna Street, Gitnang Bayan II San Mateo, Rizal	**Kamuning Bible Christian Fellowship** #4 11th Jamboree St., Cubao, Quezon City	**Greenhills Christian Fellowship (East)** 4/F Manila East Arcade, Rizal Ave. Ext. Taytay, Rizal	**JIL - Ususan Chapter** 106-B Ilang-Ilang St., Bgy. Ususan Taguig City	**The Lord Is My Shepherd** 2361-B Juan Luna St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila	**Malabon Community Church** 408 Gen. Luna St., Bayan-Bayanan Malabon City
World In Need Bible Baptist Church C. Lawis Ext., Brgy. San Luis, Antipolo City	**Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church** 89 ROTC Hunters St., Tatalon, Quezon City	**Greenhills Christian Fellowship (Marikina Valley)** #10 J. Domingo Bldg., Marcos Hi-way Antipolo City	**God's Glorious Community Min. Int'l.** # 153 Catalina Ave., Villa Catalina Subd. Gate 1, San Agustin 3, Dasmariñas, Cavite	**People's Baptist Church** 50 Bezotte St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City	**Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church** 2330 Revellin St., Sta. Ana, Manila
IEMELIF (Pamplona) J. Aguilar Ave., Pamplona, Las Piñas	**Ministries of the Living Body of Christ International** Mezzanine Floor, Morinaso Bldg. 717 Aurora Blvd. Quezon City	**Day By Day Christian Ministry** Bulwagan ng Panginoon Folk Arts Theater CCP Complex, Roxas Bvd., Pasay City	**UCCP - Caridad, Cavite City** # 819 Lopez Jaena St., Caridad, Cavite City	**Blue Ridge Bible Baptist Church** 549 Boni Serrano, Murphy, Quezon City	**United Church of the Good Shepherd** 72 I. Lopez St., New Zaniga, Mandaluyong City
St. Stephen's Parish Church # 1267 G. Masangkay St., Binondo, Manila	**Alpha & Omega IEMELIF Church** 185 Arnaiz Ave., Pasay City	**Antipolo Baptist Church** Sitio Maagay, Marcos Hi-way, Inarawan, Antipolo City		**Makati Gospel Church** 7650 Dela Rosa St., Makati City	**IEMELIF (Minuyan)** A-51 Minuyan, City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
	Febias College of Bible Karuhatan Road, Valenzuela City	**UCCP - Manila** 2006 C. M. Recto Ave. cor. Lepanto Quiapo, Manila		**Word for the World** WWW CF-4/F DLA 2 Bldg., National Road, Tunasan, Muntinlupa	**IEMELIF (Bulacan)** Bulac, Sta. Maria, Bulacan
	Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church (Marikina) #109 Gen. Ordoñez St., Marikina Heights, Marikina City			**International Baptist Church** #6 Ma. Clara St., Acacia, Malabon City	**Community Baptist Church** Dr. Sixto Antonio cor. Pasig Blvd., Rotonda, Caniogan, Pasig City
	Pilgrim Bible Baptist Church M. Javier St., Saint Dominic Subd. Bgy. Sto. Niño, Cainta, Rizal			**Zion Community Christian Church** 418 EDSA Grace Park, Caloocan City	**IEMELIF (Binakayan)** Sgt. Legaspi St. Bgy. Wawa, Binakayan Kawit, Cavite
	Word of Hope 1103 EDSA, Proj. 7, Quezon City			**Jesus Christ The Resurrection and The Life** Rizal Avenue Ext., Batingan, Binangonan, Rizal	**Bethel Baptist Church** Cabyawan Banga 1st, Plaridel, Bulacan
				Christ Commission Fellowship (St. Francis) St. Francis Square Bldg., Julia Vargas cor. Bank Drive, Mandaluyong City	**Lord of the Harvest Tabernacle** B20 L7 Pancrasio St., San Bartolome Plaza, San Bartolome St., San Antonio Valley 2, Bgy San Isidro, Parañaque City
				IEMELIF (Tandang Sora) 197 Tandang Sora Avenue, Quezon City	**Christ the Living Stone Fellowship** B20 L7 Pancrasio St., San Bartolome Plaza, San Bartolome St., San Antonio Valley 1 Bgy. San Isidro, Parañaque City
				JIL - Sta. Rosa 2/F Seven Eleven Bldg., Bgy. Balibago Sta. Rosa, Laguna	**Manila Faith Assembly of God** 2297 Juan Luna St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila
					Greenhills Christian Fellowship (South Metro) Versailles, Daang-Hari, Las Piñas City
					Beacon of Christ Bible Community Capitol Hills, Batangas City
					Family In Christ Crown St., Malhacan, Meycauayan, Bulacan
					Church Among The Palms-UCCP # 9 Kaunlaran Road, College, Los Baños, Laguna

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Tokyo ordeal: 'My kids are not terrorists'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"THE ONLY REASON I ALLOWED THEM TO go with their mom Alma [Moreno] to Japan was so that they could visit Tokyo Disneyland on their sem break," explained Joey Marquez.

Alma and her two youngest children with Joey, 9-year-old Vittorio Joey and 4-year-old MM, along with Alma's former partner Rudy Fernandez and other companions, were detained at the Narita International Airport in Tokyo last Oct. 20.

They were detained because of a letter of complaint faxed by Viva consultant Robby Tarroza to the Japanese Embassy, to prevent Viva Hot Men member Justin de Leon from performing in a show in Japan, according to Viva legal counsel Gina Lopez.

De Leon's co-manager Gorgy Rula countered that the sexy actor merely joined Alma's group as a tourist.

"He was on vacation," Rula pointed out. "Ironically, Justin got through the immigration, while Alma and her group were held back."

Moreno and company were invited by the Filipino community in Tokyo for a small gathering, according to Fernandez's manager Lolit Solis. "Tarroza thought he was bringing in talents for a big show. He thought Alma was competing with him. When we had a meeting [last Oct. 25] at the Viva office [at the Tektite Tower in Ortigas] and confronted him about the letter, he showed no remorse."

It was after that meeting, after Solis had left the building, that Fernandez arrived and had an altercation with Tarroza at the Viva executive offices, said Lopez.

"Rudy has been having sleepless nights since their detention," Solis said. "He was depressed because of the supposed inhumane treatment suffered by Alma's children. They were reportedly held in a dingy room, guarded by airport security, from 7 a.m. Thursday to 4 a.m. Friday. I heard they were only given food at 2 a.m."

"They were traumatized," Marquez bristled. "Particularly, VJ, who is older, was shaken."

Joey told INQUIRER Entertainment that he was so angry he wanted to rush to Japan and spring his kids out of the detention room, "even without a visa."

"These are children, not terrorists," he fumed. "There was no just cause to hold them. The only basis for their detention seemed to be a letter that wasn't consummated. It wasn't even signed by [Viva chair and CEO] Vic del Rosario. It was written, signed and sent by a mere consultant."

Marquez, who took his children to Boracay to hasten their recovery from the ordeal, is also planning to send a letter to express his sentiments to the Japanese Embassy by Monday.

"What happened sets a bad precedent," he said. "Does that mean anyone could just write a letter and cause an enemy to be detained in a foreign airport? International law protects minors. They shouldn't have been detained. They should've been allowed to leave the country with their mother."

Marquez is adamant: "I got more upset when I learned they were allegedly forced to sign a waiver by airport officers. Was it because they were trying to save face? Because they realized they had made a serious mistake?"

Migratory birds sneak past Palace guards

By Christine Avendaño and Nikko Dizon

APPARENTLY IT IS NOT JUST THE FORCES aligned against President Macapagal-Arroyo that are sneaking past the Palace guards.

Migratory birds have been flocking to and hovering over the part of the Pasig River adjoining Malacañang.

Environment Secretary Mike Defensor said the birds that have been seen in the vicinity of the Palace in the past few days were migratory birds, which international health experts believe are carriers of the dreaded avian flu virus.

Defensor, who was in the Palace yesterday, said that the best way was for people to avoid contact with the birds.

Asked whether the migratory birds should be driven away, Defensor said he was in talks with other officials the other day and it was thought the birds should just be left alone.

"If these birds are not driven away, then they will not disperse and thus make it possible for authorities to identify where they are and also reduce the chances of them interacting with domestic birds," Defensor said.

The environment secretary explained that the period from October to February marked the seasonal migration of migratory birds for the Philippines.

The country has so far been bird flu-free for the past two years. But Health Secretary Francisco Duque said on Wednesday it was "only a matter of time" before bird flu reached the Philippines.

In a related development, the Australian government has revised its travel advisory to the Philippines to include a health advisory.

Yesterday, it advised Australian nationals residing in the Philippines "to have access to influenza anti-viral medicine for treatment" as a precautionary measure.

"Long-term residents are at a greater risk of exposure to avian influenza over time," it warned.

2 Army sergeants tagged in Luisita slay

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—TWO SOLdiers have emerged as possible suspects in the Oct. 25 murder of a labor leader in Hacienda Luisita, the head of the Philippine National Police task force investigating the case said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad said two witnesses had testified that Army Sgts. Roderick "Joshua" de la Cruz and Romeo Castillo Jr. had been seen asking around for Ricardo Ramos, president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu), shortly before he was killed.

Ramos, 47, was gunned down as he drank beer with eight other men, some of them barangay *tanods* or village guards, in a hut 400 meters from his house in Barangay Mapalacsiao, Tarlac City.

The village, which Ramos also headed as barangay captain, is within Hacienda Luisita, a 5,000-hectare estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino.

The two men have been summoned for questioning, but Supt. Bienvenido Manga, chief of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Luzon, said there was still no reason to place them under arrest.

Meanwhile, a group of about 100 militants demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City yesterday to demand the relief of Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan whom they blamed for the killings of Ramos and at least 18 other militants in Central Luzon over the past two months.

The protesters belonged to the human rights group Karapatan, which demanded that Palparan at least be placed under preventive suspension to allow an impartial investigation. Palparan, who commands the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, has denied the charges.

"We call on the Armed Forces and the Department of National Defense leadership to immediately suspend Palparan so that witnesses can come out openly without fear of reprisals from the known butcher of Mindoro and Eastern Visayas," said Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez.

She tried to deliver a letter to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., which included the names of 16 activists killed since Sept. 1, but was refused entry to the camp.

The protesters displayed a huge list of 471 activists allegedly killed by the military or paramilitary death squads since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001. They also carried placards bearing Palparan's face marked "Berdugo" (Executioner) and Ms Arroyo's marked "Terorista."

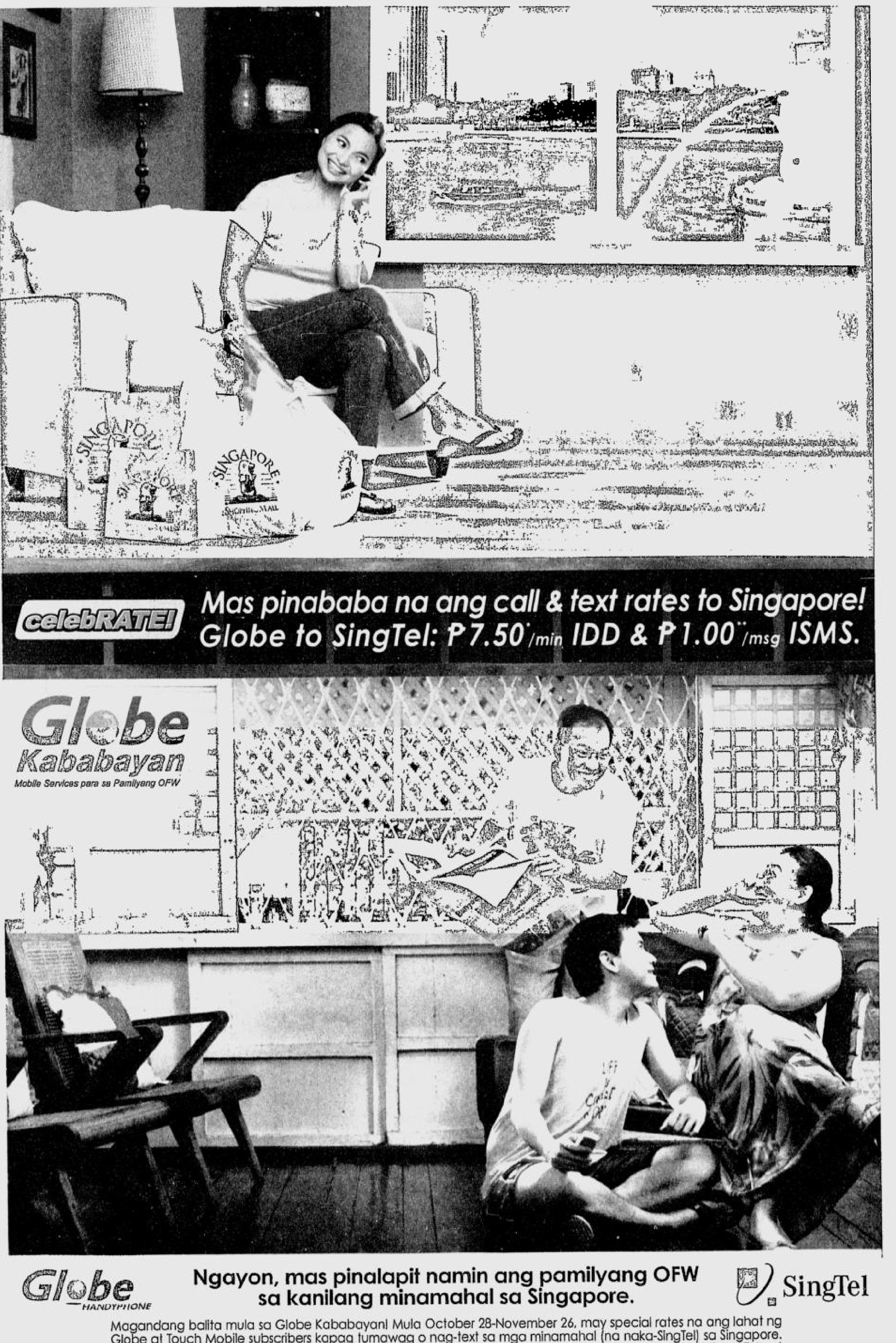
Palparan had also been accused of human rights abuses while assigned in Mindoro and Eastern Samar.

Despite the continuous heavy rains yesterday, workers from Hacienda Luisita continued to pay their respects to Ramos, whose body lay in state in his house.

Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, and PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao also condoled with Ramos' family.

"*Mewalyan kaming indu* (We have lost a parent)," said Rudy Capulong, a friend of Ramos, whom he described as "more than brave for having stood his ground against a very powerful family."

Ramos' younger brother, Rolando, said Mapalacsiao has been crippled. "Who will fight for our rights now?" he asked. ***With reports from Russel Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Dona Pazzibugan***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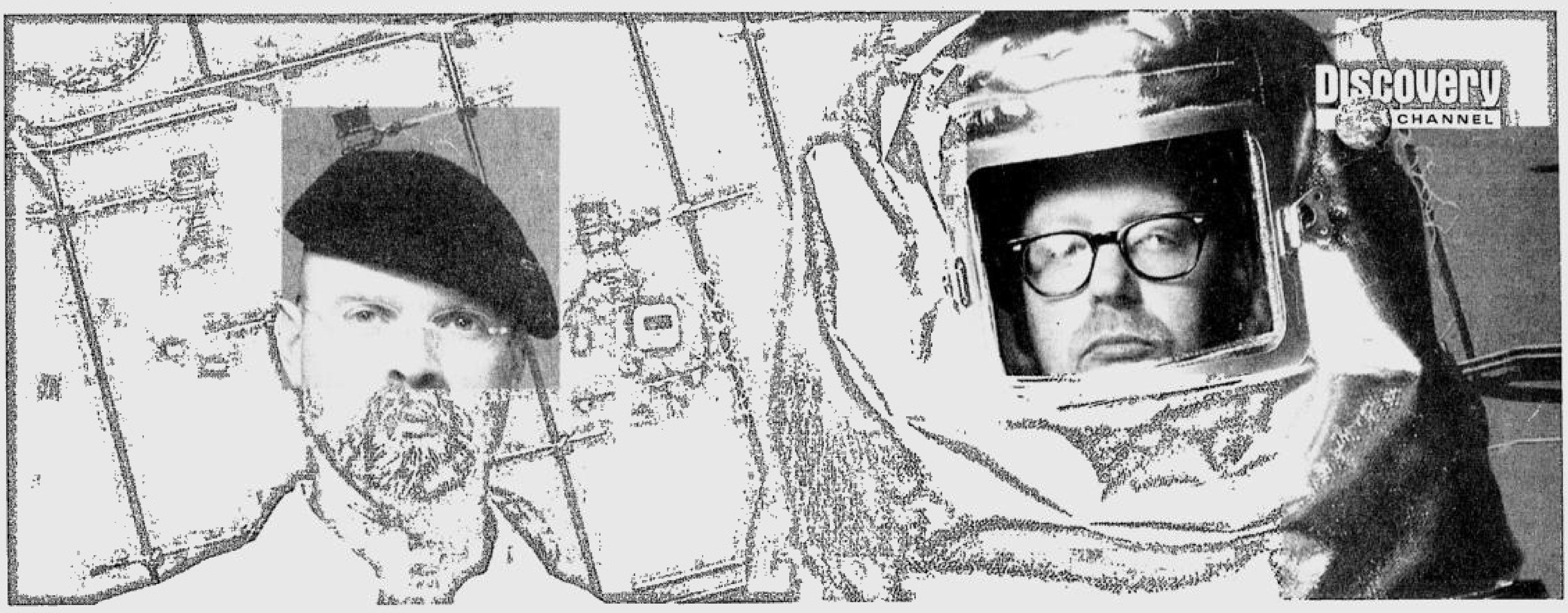

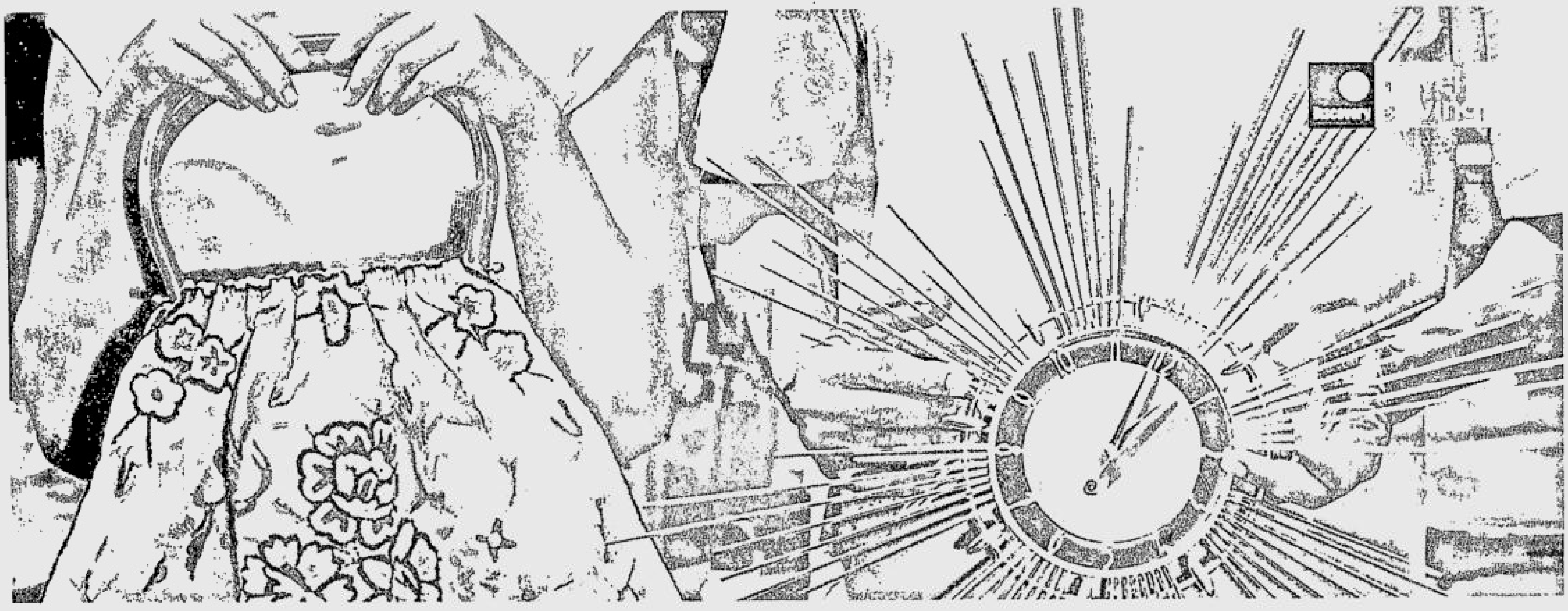

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Implement VAT, WB advises GMA

DESPITE OIL PRICE FUeled inflation, President Macapagal-Arroyo must insist on the full collection of a key consumption tax that aims to improve the Philippine fiscal state, the World Bank said on Friday.

The government is set to collect on a 10 percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) from Tuesday after a political battle between Ms Arroyo and her opponents that reached the Supreme Court.

The government maintains the extra tax revenue would help it avoid possible default on its mounting debts.

World Bank country manager Joachim von Amsberg urged the government to resist pressure to delay the second stage of the VAT law to be implemented next year, when Ms Arroyo has the option to raise the rate to 12 percent.

Ms Arroyo, who survived an impeachment complaint in September for alleged election fraud, has been under pressure to ease the burden of higher pump prices and electricity rates arising from historically high oil prices.

Some allies have urged her to defer VAT collections on the two sectors for the time being.

"All of the measures that have been put in place, plus more, are quite desperately needed to bring financial health back to the Philippine state," von Amsberg told a news conference. *AFP*

Fil-Am who shot ex-gf's new bf arrested

LOS ANGELES – A MAN ACCUSED of trying to kill his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend more than a decade ago was apprehended in the Philippines and returned to Los Angeles, the FBI said Thursday.

Jerry Jim Ong is accused of forcing his way into the ex-girlfriend's home in Los Angeles on Feb. 16, 1994, then locking her in a closet and lying in wait for the new boyfriend. When the man arrived, according to the FBI, Ong fired a round into his chest, then fled in the woman's car.

Authorities learned recently that he had gone to the Philippines, where he was apprehended on July 10, 2005.

Ong waived extradition proceedings and was returned to Los Angeles on Wednesday. Federal officials planned to turn him over to the Los Angeles Police Department to face charges of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment and burglary.

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Palace does not believe FVR link to coup

From page A1

tice at the embassy [not to] comment on reports based on classified documents provided by anonymous sources," embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said by phone.

Lussenhop said he had not seen any of the supposed embassy reports written about by the INQUIRER to be able to determine the documents' authenticity.

Press conference tonight

Ramos himself will "address the issues raised against him" at a press conference scheduled at 6:30 tonight at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his arrival from Guangdong, China.

"I believe I can second-guess his reaction," said his spokesperson Ed Malay. "FVR will definitely say, 'What else is new?' FVR has nothing to do with Gen. (Fortunato) Abat."

Malay also said the authenticity of the report "should be ascertained in view of the many files and reports that are circulating."

The report—prepared long before the "Jueteng-gate" and "Hello, Garci" scandals erupted—said Ramos had given his former national security adviser, Jose Almonte, until June to implement the supposed planned coup against the President.

It said Ramos had been meeting with the Federation of Retired and Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers (Forces), which were "a springboard for Ramos' conspiratorial hints of a forthcoming coup attempt."

Forces, which was founded by Abat, includes other members of the Ramos Cabinet such as Almonte and former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez.

Almonte told GMA-7's "24 Oras" that the report might have been made public because of Ramos' proposal that Ms Arroyo cut her term short.

"That feeling of urgency of President Ramos, I think, is the one that pressures him to make statements that the Palace may not be very happy about," Almonte said.

He said the report was erroneous because in his view, no coup plot would succeed at this time. Besides, he said, Charter change was what he and Ramos were pushing.

Disbelief

Bunye said Malacañang was going by Ramos' recent actions, specifically his move to distance himself from Abat, his former defense secretary, who had been loudly pushing for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

"We believe the former President supports this government," Bunye said.

He said the President had the same reaction as the Ramos boys in the Cabinet: "It was disbelief; nobody actually believed [the report]."

Bunye said he tried to call Ramos immediately after reading the INQUIRER report, to let the latter know that "we don't believe this talk going around." But he could not make contact.

The report is believed to be among the classified documents Filipino-American Leandro Aragoncillo allegedly pilfered from Federal Bureau of Investigation computers and passed on to opposition personalities here.

Ramos helped install Ms Arroyo in Malacañang in January 2001 and is deemed to be the factor that saved her presidency on July 8, when 10 key administration officials, former President Corazon Aquino, and Senate President Franklin Drilon called for her resignation.

He himself has urged Ms Arroyo to cut her term short preparatory to Charter change and a shift to the parliamentary form of government.

'Overrated'

Abat and Enriquez debunked the supposed embassy report, saying it was not in Ramos' character to lead a coup plot.

"Ramos is overrated as a leader. People think he can do it. But that is not in his character," Abat said.

Added Enriquez: "You know Ramos. Ask him, 'Sir, are you hungry?' He will reply, 'I've already eaten.' That's neither yes nor no.

"Some people are looking up to him. He might have been propositioned to be part of a plot, but I don't [buy] that."

In another interview, Abat said: "I'm not involved in any kind of coup. I doubt that President Ramos will think about leading a coup d'etat.

"You know, President Ramos was educated in America, and he is more constitutional than radical. I can't believe what they're saying, that he's a coup plotter."

Abat and Enriquez spoke of their plan to put up a "God-inspired, competent and democratic" transition government to replace Ms Arroyo in the event of her peaceful ouster.

They said the "total change formula" was based on the Christian Democratic ideology adopted by the Christians' Nationalist Union and its more recent affiliate, the Christians for National Survival, of which they were both members.

"We wish Mr. Ramos would help us," Enriquez said, maintaining that the former President did not belong to the group.

Not Forces' leader

Abat confirmed that he had met with Ramos—"but it happened in Edsa II."

He said Ramos joined Forces when it was organized at the height of the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada late in 2000.

Forces is believed to have a hand in convincing military leaders to withdraw support from Estrada in January 2001.

But Abat stressed that Ramos was "not the leader" and that Ramos never took part in other activities launched by Forces.

Just last April 30, Abat and Forces called on Ms Arroyo to step down, citing her supposed failure to address the unpaid pensions of thousands of war veterans.

But on the same day Ramos went to Malacañang to disavow any link to Abat's group. "He was not even part of our activities; why did he deny it?" Abat said.

Loyalty

Former President Aquino defended Ramos, her successor in Malacañang, saying that based on his loyalty to her from 1986 to 1992, she could not believe that he was a coup plotter.

Administration lawmakers were also quick to dismiss the embassy report, saying it was meant to sow intrigue between Ramos and the President.

"There were several instances when I didn't believe these US reports. I don't think we should take it hook, line and sinker," Surigao del Sur Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers said at the same forum.

In a statement, Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin and Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario said the report was "an old story retold many times over, and which has always been disproved by Ramos' demonstrated loyalty to the Constitution."

Not surprised

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he was not surprised at the report linking Ramos to a coup plot.

Pimentel said Ramos still had the capability to organize such a plot because the latter—also a former defense secretary and chief of the Armed Forces—remained influential in the military establishment.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Ramos is involved in a clandestine operation against the President," Pimentel said in a forum at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City.

He also noted that Ramos was a "fair-haired boy" of the Americans and would be an acceptable replacement of Ms Arroyo in the eyes of the US government.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said: "Ramos is a tricky power player, adept at subtly hiding his own political intentions and motives. His rescue of [Ms Arroyo] in July could only have been a delaying tactic so he can buy more time not for [her] but for himself, as he also prepares his own plans to grab leadership."

Desperately dependent?

Beltran also noted that Ms Arroyo had become "desperately dependent on Ramos."

The former President found an unlikely ally in opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who expressed doubt over the report.

"The fact that nothing came out of the alleged plot would suggest that either FVR was not capable [of mounting the coup] or the report was not true at all," Lacson said.

Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Nikko Dizon, Fe Zamora, Philip C. Tubeza, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Dona Pazzibugan

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Billiards now truly game for the masses

From page A1

adult men and women and excluded boys and girls aged 17 and below.

Male preserve

The survey also confirms billiards is still largely a male preserve. But it has broken out of its "males only" roots, when pool halls were closed to women to prevent them from infringing on pastimes and conniving men and boys wanted to keep to themselves.

The survey says 84 percent of Filipino men know billiards, with 57 percent saying they have played it themselves at some time, compared to 65 percent of Filipino women knowing it and only 15 percent ever having played it.

Seventy-two percent of the male players say they played in Metro Manila, 58 percent in the rest of Luzon, 57 percent in the Visayas and 43 percent in Mindanao.

In comparison, 13 percent of women who said they have tried billiards say they did it in Metro Manila, 19 percent in the rest of Luzon, 16 percent in the Visayas and 9 percent in Mindanao.

Out of seedy joints

What's more, billiards is popular in all social and educational groups, and more so in the upper ones. This shatters the notion of decades ago that it was played only by half-dressed men with tattoos at a noisy joint near the public market.

Among men, 64 percent in the ABC classes, 57 percent in Ds and 51 percent in Es said they have played billiards at one time or another. Among women, the proportions are 26 percent, 16 percent and 8 percent in the three socioeconomic classes respectively.

Surprisingly, for both men and women, the higher the level of schooling, the higher the proportions who have played billiards. Seven of every ten male college graduates, and three of every ten female college graduates, have tried the game at some time.

Also, the popularity of billiards has grown rapidly over time, evident from the great difference between age groups saying they had experience in the game.

Seventy-one percent of men aged 18-34 have played billiards at some time, compared to only 38 percent among men aged 55 and over. Twenty-two percent of women aged 18-34 have tried the game at some time, compared to only 5 percent among those aged 55 and older.

Big TV audience

When asked how often, if ever, they watched billiards on television, 8 percent of the respondents—men and women combined—said "always," 10 percent said "often," 33 percent said "sometimes" and 14 percent said they "don't watch billiards," for a total of 65 percent who noticed a billiards program and thus had a choice of watching it.

The estimated total number of adults watching billiards "always" is 4.1 million, watching it "often" is 5 million, and watching it "sometimes" is 16.6 million. These add up to a potential 25.7 million adult television audience, not counting the audience among youth below age 18, for whom estimates are not yet available.

Television probably accounts for a large part for the huge popularity of the game nowadays, when pool contests were hardly part of TV fare some years ago.

Wizards

Though the survey has not delved into it, the exploits of top local billiards players such as Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante as well as such foreign aces as Earl Strickland, Nick Varner have no doubt also contributed a lot to widening the base of billiards aficionados. These wizards have made such previously esoteric pool terms as combination, kick and bank shots, carom and money ball part of everyday language.

And pocket billiards can be an absorbing, hard-to-master, gut-wrenching game that can make addicts of even parents who warned their children to stay away from it or risk going to perdition.

The Third Quarter 2005 Social Weather Survey was done on Aug. 26-Sept. 5, using face-to-face interviews of a national sample of 1,200 statistically representative adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, Balance Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao (sampling error margins of plus or minus 3 percent for national percentages and plus or minus 6 percent for area percentages).

Gold digging in collapsed tunnels . . .

From page A1

mining operations. Another theory is sabotage by competitor mine operators.

"These are the types of operations of 20 years ago that we want stopped ... These operations are dangerous to (workers) and the environment," Defensor told the INQUIRER in Manila.

Defensor said that the mining operations at the site of the blast belonged to the Brillantes mining group which he said was one of three private groups conducting small-scale operations in the bowels of Mt. Diwata.

"We have not approved any of their operations. These small-scale operators are the ones opposing the government's (mining stake) in Diwalwal," Defensor said.

Three blasts

"We're inclined to believe the presence of (prohibited) explosives because there were three explosions. If it were just the accumulation of gas, that would not have been the case," said Dimalibot.

The use of explosives in small-scale operations has been banned under the Mining Act of 1995.

The body of the latest confirmed dead, Victor Condesa, was pulled out of the Licayan tunnel yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, Franco Tito, Mt. Diwata village chief, said the actual death toll could be higher if accounts of survivors were considered.

Tito said relatives of other miners who perished did not want the government to know the actual figures because of fear it would lead to the total closure of the area from mining activities.

Violent past

The INQUIRER found out that not a single victim had been brought to funeral parlors in Monkayo town.

A worker at the largest funeral parlor in Monkayo said they had not serviced any victim.

The government has been regulating mining operations here after a series of violent incidents triggered by rivalries killed dozens of people since gold was discovered in the early '80s.

Tito said survivors told him that at least 18 people died from the Sunshine and Licayan tunnels. He said at least 50 others remained unaccounted for.

Tito said unless there was a thorough investigation of the incident, the real death toll would remain unclear.

Abraham Uluan, JB Management chief security officer, said Tito's figure had no basis because at the time of the incident, only 24 people were inside the Sunshine tunnel.

Toll still unclear

Col. Hernando Caraig, commander of the Army's 28th Infantry Battalion, also disagreed with Tito.

"We would know if there are a lot of bodies being hauled out of Monkayo because vehicles will pass through our checkpoints," Caraig said.

Tito said he believed the explosions were caused by dynamite.

He said what was not clear was whether the explosion was accidental or deliberate.

Reynaldo Española, vice president of JB Mining Corp., which owns the Sunshine tunnel, told a local television station that rescue workers had already retrieved seven bodies.

Probable causes

Edilberto Buiser, DENR director for the Davao region, said the roof and walls of the tunnel where the miners were working collapsed after the explosions.

He said there were two probable causes for the incident.

The first, said Buiser, was the possible accumulation of explosive gas at Level 900, Position of 52, of the Sunshine Tunnel, which had a high-back roof where gases could be trapped. Rotten timbers are the major source of highly explosive and poisonous gas.

The second cause, he added, might be sabotage wherein competitors of Brillantes mining could have deliberately planted explosive like dynamite.

Those killed based on official figures released were identified as Julio Galve, William Catigbe, Joepurt Malubay, Teresito Miguel, Kenneth Miguel and Condesa.

The Montevista District Hospital told the INQUIRER that miner Cesar Galve died shortly after he was rushed there on Wednesday evening.

Some of those still trapped and believed killed were Jerry Calamba, Al Placio, Cyrus Cordero, Raul Hugo, Rey Hugo, Nemesto de los Santos, Rodolfo Cabrera, Jeory Deocampo, Roque Aniñon, Mardonio Sistona Jr. and Marcelino Davis.

Injured were Pedro Francisco Jr. and Ferdinand Bersamin.

The other survivors were Rudy Plomo, Felix Tampos, Jun Gallardo, Rex Almidilla, Raul Abiado, Julius Urabia, Jun Arco, Tata Arco and Bobong Napara.

Cardinal Vidal: Not proper to use Mass . . .

From page A1

Reyes was outraged by Malacañang's request that Masses catering to the opposition at the nearby San Miguel Church be prohibited.

"The bishops should howl in protest because it's the President who is now violating the separation of Church and State," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"The President is much worse than Marcos, because even during martial law, he never banned Masses involving the opposition," Reyes added.

Fortress Malacañang

Fortress Malacañang not only preempted protesters from sneaking past the Palace gates, but also discouraged devotees from attending yesterday's Mass for the feast day of St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of desperate cases.

"Our devotees live far from our church and they were scared by news that the PSG (Presidential Security Group) had stepped up the security in this area. We had been getting a lot of calls since Thursday and most said they were afraid of being shot after seeing soldiers with high-powered guns roaming the church grounds," a worker at the St. Jude church told the INQUIRER.

The church staff, who refused to be identified, said yesterday's crowd was one of the smallest the church had in years. "We have more attendees on our regular day of devotion (Thursday)," said the church staff.

The same source noted that during feast days, the church crowd would practically spill out beyond the parking lot and into the streets while peddlers made a killing from the increased traffic. Yesterday, the church was filled only up to its entrance and the vendors looked desperate.

Full combat gear

For the second straight day, the PSG came in full force at the Malacañang complex, dressed in combat gear, enforcing tight vehicle and pedestrian inspection. They made their presence felt not only in the Palace vicinity but also inside St. Jude church itself.

PSG members practically barricaded the Palace main gates adjacent to the church throughout the day in a show of force against sneak protest actions. A fire truck was also seen cruising inside the Palace compound to show that it was ready to hose down demonstrators.

The PSG was reinforced yesterday by a contingent of Manila police and Malacañang operatives in plain clothes who mixed with the few hundreds who attended the church celebrations.

A staff of the RTVM, Malacañang's in-house media unit, was spotted with a camera wrapped in his jacket ready to take footage of any action, while some Malacañang undercover personnel were checking out items carried by some devotees.

Paranoia

Pretty soon, President Macapagal-Arroyo would be afraid of her own shadow, said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., reacting to reports of stringent security measures around Malacañang.

Pimentel added that the no-Mass policy shows "extreme paranoia" on the part of Ms Arroyo.

"It is paranoia in its highest form," another opposition senator, Panfilo Lacson, said.

"GMA has already developed a bunker mentality and worse, toward her own people. It shows a leader who projects strength and complete control but exhibits guilt or fear or both. She not only lacks competence as President, she is no longer capable of governing," Lacson said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the no-permit, no-Mass policy would only "further tighten the already suffocating grip of Malacañang" on its critics.

Spawning more protests

"Malacañang is fighting fire with fire. It's an iron-fisted response to issues that should be [met] with understanding and humility for the meaningful reform of this nation," Panganiban said.

"The separation of Church and State is not an empty covenant but a contract that safeguards the people's rights to assume political and religious principles separately and freely," Pangilinan said.

He said taking this away would invite more protests.

Situational

In a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the tight security at the Palace was likely to ease soon. "I don't think this is permanent, it will be just situational depending on activities for the day," he said.

Bunye appealed to the public for more understanding on the need to step up security measures on the Palace grounds. "Our security measures are no different from those being implemented in airports, hotels and shopping malls," he said.

PNP chief says Reds are winners in political crisis

By Luige A. del Puerto

COMMUNIST REBELS FIGHTing a guerrilla war in the countryside for more than three decades now are benefiting the most from the standoff between President Macapagal-Arroyo and opponents demanding her removal from power, Metro Manila's police chief said yesterday.

"The biggest winner coming out from this national division – because of so much conflict between the opposition and the government – is the CPP-NPA-NDF," said Director Vidal Querol, head of the National Capital Region Police Office. He was referring to the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military and political arms, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front, respectively.

Querol told the INQUIRER in an interview he feared the time might come when people would lose hope in the country and feel helpless in the face of its political and economic problems. When that happens, he said, the CPP-NPA would then offer itself as a "credible alternative" to the government.

"The biggest loser here is the republic," he added.

Querol said last week's Lakbayan or People's March from the provinces to Manila demonstrated how well organized the communists were. He claimed the marchers were affiliated with the CPP-NPA, a charge which march organizers had vigorously denied. They said the participants were mostly impoverished farmers and fishermen wanting to be heard.

Citing the old Maoist strategy of surrounding the cities from the countryside, Querol claimed that the CPP was testing the commitment of its members by holding the march.

SC dismisses habeas corpus petition filed by Gonzales

NOTING THAT HE IS A FREE MAN anyway, the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed without prejudice the petition for habeas corpus filed by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales in connection with his detention by the Senate.

"The fact that petitioner has been released from the custody of the Senate Sergeant at Arms has been established. The question of petitioner's detention or deprivation of liberty having been rendered moot and academic on account of his release, there is no longer any need to give due course to the instant petition," the SC decision read.

Gonzales was released on Wednesday after a month of detention by the Senate for refusing to answer questions about the government's contract with American lobby group Venable LLP.

Under the agreement, the American firm was authorized to secure funding for the plan to amend the Constitution. Gonzales is the lone signatory to the contract on behalf of the Philippines.

The high tribunal also noted in its decision that the Senate does not consider its inquiry into the Venable contract closed because the "mystery" over the identity of the private parties who funded the agreement and as well as the one who referred the company to the government has yet to be revealed.

"Still, our dismissal of the instant petition should be without prejudice to any recourse available to petitioner if he is again detained by respondent Committee, such as another petition for habeas corpus or any other similar remedy or relief," it said.

Leila B. Salaverria

Criminal charges filed vs Ermita, Lomibao

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT TEOFISTO GUINGona and 11 other opposition and religious leaders yesterday filed before the Office of the Ombudsman criminal and administrative charges against Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and three top police officials, including Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lomibao.

In the complaint, Guingona accused Ermita, Lomibao, National Capital Region Police chief Vidal Querol, and Western Police District chief Pedro Bulaong of violating the provisions of Batas Pambansa 880 or The Public Assembly Act of 1985 , The Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officers and Employees and the Revised Penal Code.

Ombudsman Public Assistance Bureau Director lawyer Marlyn Galvez received the complaint.

The complaint stemmed from the Oct. 14 violent dispersal of a religious procession led by Guingona and the other complainants along Claro M. Recto Avenue near the historic Mendiola Bridge.

The complainants said Ermita violated BP 880 when he ordered Lomibao, Querol and Bulaong to implement "calibrated preemptive response... in lieu of maximum tolerance" to crack down on public assemblies and prevent people from gathering.

Nelson F. Flores

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Per DTI-NCR Permit N0. 6033 Series of 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

2,200 firms paid Saddam kickbacks

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS—SOME 2,200 COMPANIES, including major concerns like DaimlerChrysler, Siemens and Volvo, made illicit payments totaling $1.8 billion to Saddam Hussein's government under the UN oil-for-food program, a report said on Thursday.

The UN-established Independent Inquiry Committee, led by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, also named politicians in Russia, France, Britain, Italy and elsewhere who were given favors by Saddam in his quest to get UN sanctions lifted.

More than half of the 4,000 companies that bought oil or supplied humanitarian goods under the plan were implicated.

Only one oil company and 26 suppliers of goods admitted doing so.

The program, which began in December 1996 and ended in 2003, was aimed at easing the impact of UN sanctions imposed in 1990 after Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait. It allowed Iraq to sell oil to pay for food, medicine and other goods.

"It was the mother of all humanitarian programs," Volcker told a news conference.

The companies involved came from 66 nations, including large corporations in the United States, Russia, France, Germany and Switzerland. Russia, then an ally of Iraq, led the list of both legitimate and illegitimate oil contracts, getting $19.3 billion from Iraq, some 30 percent of all oil sales.

Under the program, Iraq sold a total of $64.2 billion of oil to 248 companies, of which 139 paid illicit surcharges. In turn, some 3,614 companies sold $34.5 billion of humanitarian goods to Iraq and 2,253 paid kickbacks, the report said.

But Volcker said this was far less than the nearly $11 billion Saddam made in smuggled oil sales outside of the program, often with the knowledge of the UN Security Council, which was supposed to supervise the operation.

Volcker said his latest and last report after 19 months of investigation was meant to explain what happened outside of the United Nation's control. But in an address to the 191-member UN General Assembly, he asked why such pervasive corruption "was not perceived and why was action was not taken."

Among those named in the report as receiving oil vouchers that could be sold for a commission were British lawmaker George Galloway, former French UN Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, former French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and Russian ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky Merimee, France's UN ambassador until 1995, alone told investigators that Tariq Aziz, Iraq's former deputy prime minister, had offered him the commissions because he was a "fair negotiator." He was at the United Nations until 1995, when the program was first considered and allegedly received $165,725 in 1999. French authorities are investigating him.

Iraq often demanded kickbacks as the cost of doing business. It allowed Saddam to gain hard currency, denied under the sanctions. *Reuters*

US hoarding prompts bird flu pill maker to halt supply

ZURICH—DRUG MAKER ROCHE halted supplies of its Tamiflu pill to the United States on Thursday to head off hoarding by consumers fearing bird flu, but two suspected human cases in China and France turned out to be false alarms.

Roche Holding AG said it had halted deliveries of Tamiflu to the United States and Canada until the start of the flu season. Media coverage of the spread of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu had driven sales higher, the company said.

"This resulted in increased demand for Tamiflu in part from individuals who are doing private stockpiling and at the moment there is no influenza circulating and the threat of a pandemic has not (materialized)," a spokesperson said.

"Our priority is to ensure that Tamiflu is available for seasonal use and to fulfill government orders," she added.

Health care information collector Verispan said more than 67,000 US Tamiflu prescriptions were dispensed for the week ending Oct. 21—quadruple the demand from the same week last year.

Tamiflu is considered the first line of defense against the H5N1 avian flu virus that some fear could spark a catastrophic pandemic if it mutates to allow human-to-human transmission.

The drug can reduce the severity of influenza and may slow its spread.

Governments are scrambling to buy it, but production is limited. Under pressure from generic drug companies, developing nations and the United States, Roche agreed this month to discuss granting licenses to others to make versions of Tamiflu.

Cao Minh Quang, head of Vietnam's Pharmaceutical Control Department, said it had asked Roche to franchise Tamiflu production to Vietnam, where bird flu has killed 41 people.

"But in the situation of a pandemic, we will start the production without permission," Quang said.

Some experts have predicted that, should H5N1 mutate to become a human disease, an epidemic could be contained with the quick use of drugs such as Tamiflu and widespread quarantines.

Health officials have urged quick notification of suspected cases, and France and China both reported potential H5N1 human infections earlier this week.

But on Thursday France said tests on one of three tourists suspected of catching H5N1 in a Thai bird park showed he was not infected.

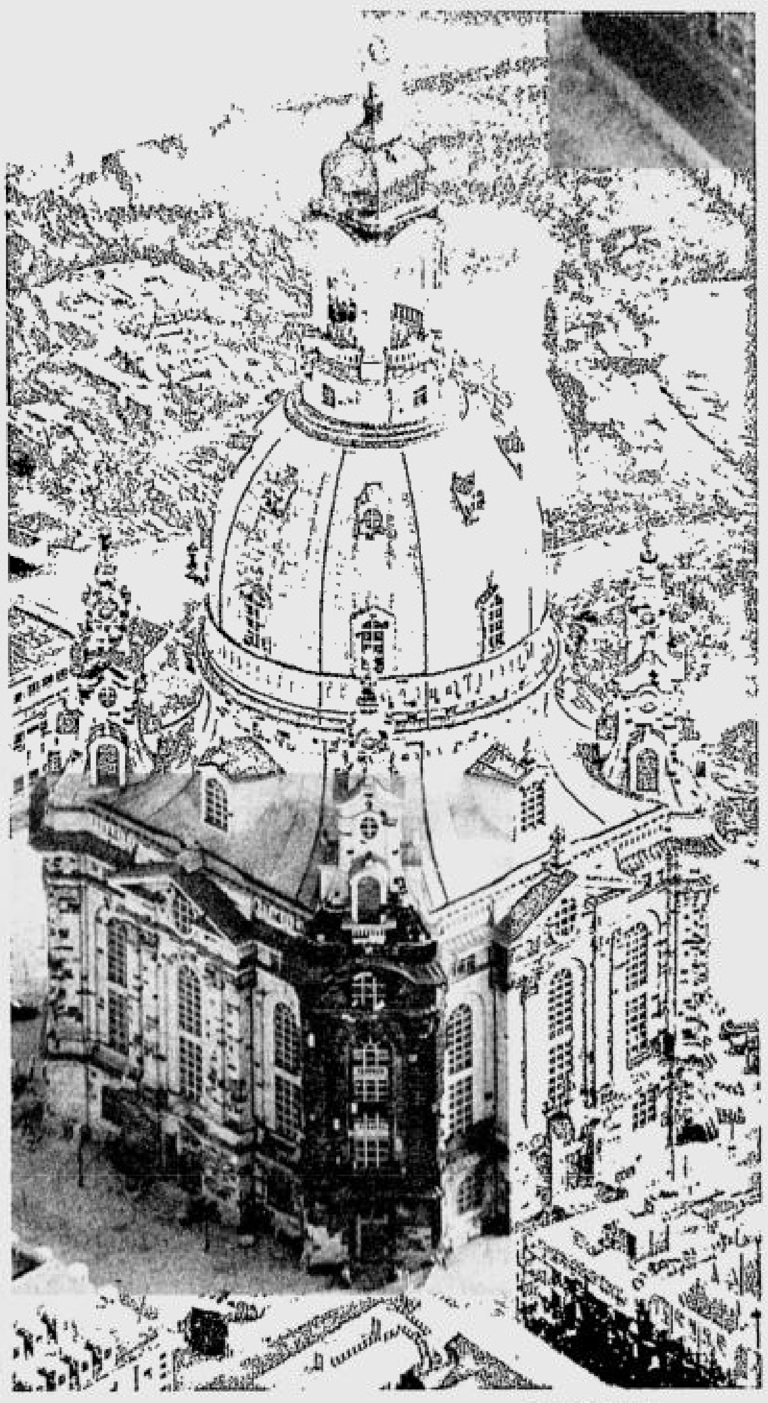
And China said a girl who died also tested negative.

H5N1 avian flu has forced the destruction of more than 140 million birds in Asia and the eastern parts of Europe and officials say it is on a steady march across the world.

So far it has only affected 121 people and killed 62 in four Asian nations—Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia. But much of the Tamiflu buying is due to fears that governments are doing little to stop it.

"No one in the world today is fully prepared for a pandemic," US Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt agreed in a speech on Thursday.

"If a pandemic hits our shores, it will affect almost every sector of our society—not just health care, but transportation systems, workplaces, schools, public safety and more," Leavitt added. He said a long-awaited US plan for dealing with a pandemic would be released "soon." *Reuters*



REBUILT The famous Dresden Frauenkirche cathedral (Church of Our Lady), which was left in ruins after British bombed the city in 1945, has been rebuilt and the people of Dresden are preparing to welcome dignitaries to its reconsecration on Oct. 30. REUTERS

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New Bush setback: Supreme Court pick bows out

WASHINGTON—IN A NEW SETBACK FOR President George W. Bush, Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers abruptly pulled out of consideration on Thursday under mounting pressure from conservative Republicans who questioned whether she would support their views on the highest US court.

Bush said he reluctantly accepted the decision of his White House counsel and longtime ally and would move quickly to fill the vacancy on the court created by the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

The withdrawal removed, at least temporarily, one major irritant for a White House on the defensive on several fronts, including the possible indictment of senior officials over the leaking of a CIA operative's name and deep concern among Americans over the Iraq war.

Democrats accused Bush of bowing to conservatives and urged him to pick a centrist nominee as they set the stage for a battle over a choice that could shift the balance of power to the right on the nine-member court.

"The radical right wing of the Republican Party killed the Harriet Miers nomination," said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat.

"Apparently, Ms Miers did not satisfy those who want to pack the Supreme Court with rigid ideologues."

Even Sen. John Warner, a Virginia Republican, complained.about the right wing, saying, "In effect, she was denied due process by members of her own party."

But many moderate Republicans and Democrats had questions about her as well and her nomination sank under the weight of a medley of concerns on both sides of the aisle about her expertise on constitutional issues, her position on abortion and whether she would have sufficient autonomy from Bush.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a Tennessee Republican, on Wednesday night gave White House chief of staff Andy Card "a frank assessment, a lay of the land, on the situation in the (Senate Judiciary) Committee and full Senate," said Frist spokesperson Bob Stevenson.

Opponents fought the Miers nomination ever since it was announced on Oct. 3, saying Bush missed a chance to pick an experienced judge with clear conservative credentials who would firmly move the court to the right on such social issues as abortion, gay rights and church-state separation.

Miers, 60, cited as a reason for withdrawing the need to maintain secrecy around her White House service. Members of the US Congress had wanted to see internal records outlining Miers' views on constitutional issues that Bush vowed to keep confidential.

"While I believe that my lengthy career provides sufficient evidence for consideration of my nomination, I am convinced the efforts to obtain Executive Branch materials and information will continue," she said in her withdrawal letter to Bush. *Reuters*

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Dark days for Bush

By Ron Fournier

WASHINGTON—THESE ARE DARK DAYS FOR the White House.

And they could get darker.

Less than a year after winning reelection by a comfortable margin, President George W. Bush's approval ratings are at the lowest since he took office in 2001 and he is being whipsawed this week by events, some of his own making.

- The US death toll in Iraq hit 2,000 on Tuesday, a fresh reminder of the president's push to war over weapons of mass destruction that were never found.
- A special prosecutor took aim at White House officials in an investigation into the leak of a CIA agent's identity, a disclosure that may have been part of a campaign to discredit an Iraq war critic. Indictments could come Friday.
- An insurrection of the president's conservative political base forced the withdrawal of Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers on Thursday.
- Consumer confidence dropped, home sales were down and the number of people who lost their jobs because of Hurricane Katrina climbed above the half-million mark.

"There are times when no matter what you do it seems to blow up in your face, whether it's self-inflicted or inflicted from the outside," said Democratic consultant Joe Lockhart, former press secretary of President Bill Clinton.

In the face of such grim news, Bush is likely to follow the examples of Clinton and other embattled presidents and make a public display of his work ethic.

"The American people expect me to do my job, and I'm going to," Bush said, shrugging off the "background noise" of the CIA leak investigation.

White House officials have said they expect anybody indicted to leave the staff.

On Iraq, the president has given a series of speeches defending his war policies. The approval of a new Iraqi constitution Oct. 15 is one of the few pieces of good news Bush had gotten this month.

The economy has been a baffling issue to Bush and his team. They have not figured out how to convince the public that the economy is doing as well as experts say. It's a hard sell when pension funds are going bankrupt, health care costs and gasoline prices are soaring and jobs are being shipped overseas.

That leaves the rift with conservatives. The White House hopes that Miers fixed that problem by withdrawing.

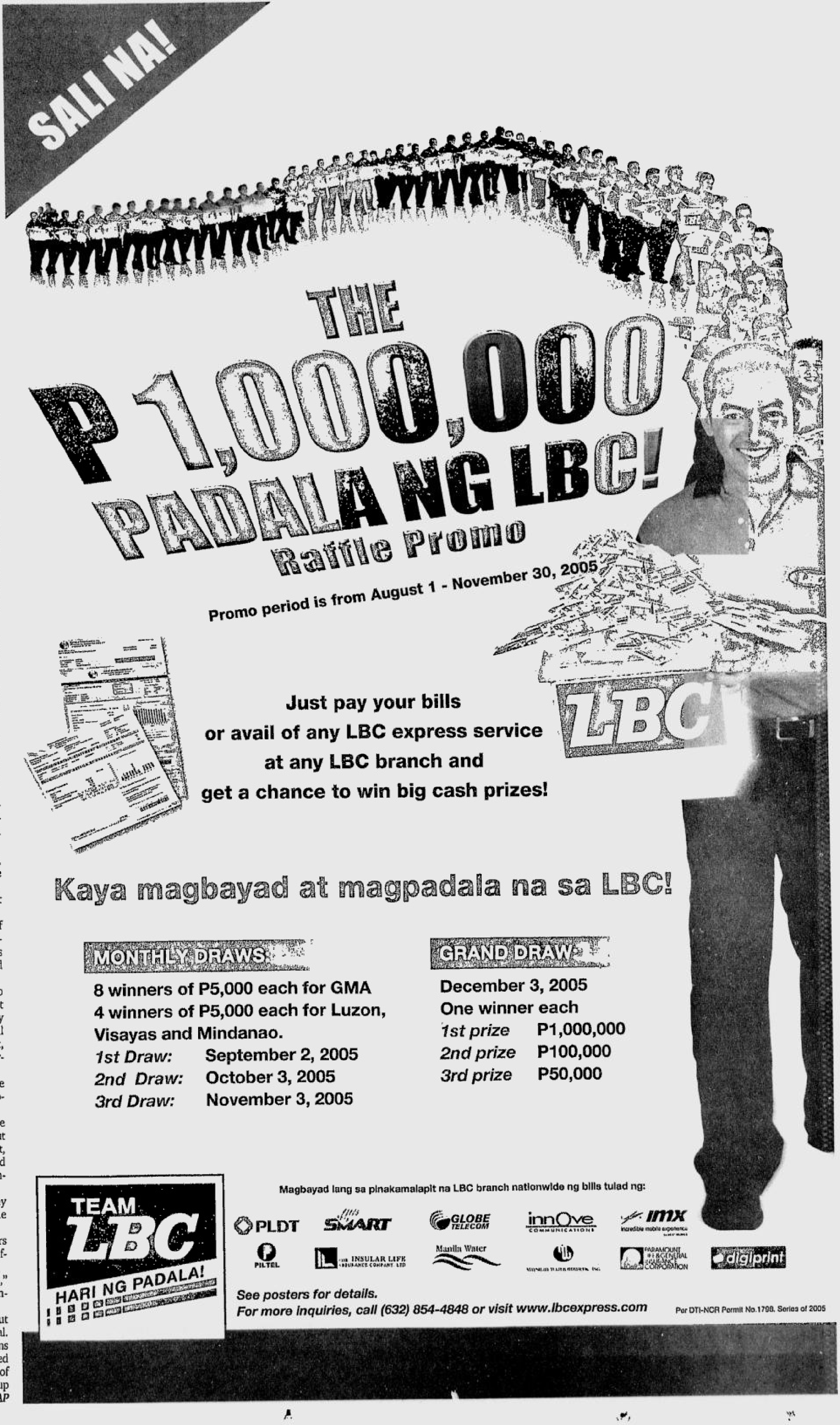
Bush blamed her demise on a dispute with the Senate over access to White House documents, but that wasn't half the problem. It was a family fight, an ugly one, between a conservative president and like-minded activists who consider themselves entitled to dictate his Supreme Court pick.

They helped him get elected twice. They wanted a tried-and-true conservative on the bench, and Miers didn't cut it.

With independent and Democratic voters abandoning him in droves, Bush couldn't afford to make conservatives angry.

"The base is his last refuge at this point," said Charles Franklin, a University of Wisconsin political science professor.

Massachusetts' junior senator, John Kerry, put a more cynical spin on the Miers' withdrawal. "Caught up in a wave of scandal and concerns about the war in Iraq, the president has allowed right-wing interest groups to decide the fate of his Supreme Court nominee rather than stand up to his ultraconservative base," he said. *AP*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SAN LAZARO

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-930 Series of 2005

It's death for 3 bombers

From page A1

and terror," she added.

A fourth accused, Gappal Bannah Asali (alias "Boy Negro") escaped the death penalty by turning state witness, pinning down the three for the 2005 Valentine's Day bombing of a passenger bus on Edsa in Makati, which killed four people and wounded at least 60.

Rohmat and Filipinos Gamal Baharan (alias Tapay) and Angelo Trinidad (alias Abu Khalil) were convicted of murder and multiple frustrated murder.

Rohmat had pleaded not guilty. Baharan and Trinidad also initially pleaded not guilty, but changed their plea to guilty weeks into the trial.

The Makati bombing occurred almost simultaneously with bomb attacks in the cities of Davao and General Santos. Police had also blamed the two Mindanao attacks on Islamic militants.

Heavily guarded court

The packed, 30-seat courtroom was secured by an eight-man Special Weapons and Tactics team backed by 14 Makati police officers. They guarded elevators, fire exits and toilets.

The three defendants, flanked by guards, stood in silence as a court clerk read out the verdict, first in English and then in Filipino.

Anguish was apparent in each man's face.

"*Inaasahan na namin ito ... Okay lang* (We've been expecting this. It's okay)," Trinidad said as guards whisked the three men away after the trial.

Asked if he had expected the guilty verdict, Rohmat said: "*Ewan ko* (I don't know)."

Rohmat appeared thinner than the last time he was seen on television. He told the INQUIRER he had been fasting.

'Victory for Filipinos'

Before the judge entered the room, he chuckled nervously and chatted with two Indonesian Embassy officials. He fell silent when his two co-accused entered the courtroom.

"This is a victory not only for the Filipinos but for the whole world in their fight against terrorism," state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said at the end of the seven-month trial. "Terrorism has no place in this world."

Asali, Trinidad and Baharan were tagged as members of the extremist Abu Sayyaf, while Rohmat was said to be a member of the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah sent to Mindanao to train bombers.

Charged in absentia were Abu Sayyaf leaders Khadaffy Janjalani, Jainal Sali alias Abu Solaiman, and "John and Jane Does." US-trained Filipino soldiers have been trying to track down the two leaders in Mindanao.

Fight not over

Guillen also ordered the three defendants to pay a civil indemnity totaling P400,000 to the families of those killed, and P1 million in exemplary damages.

She immediately ordered their transfer to the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City.

Velasco said he believed this was the first time that a key JI member had been convicted of bombing in the Philippines.

Another Indonesian, Fathur al-Ghozi, was linked to the December 2000 Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila but he was convicted not of murder but of illegal possession of explosives.

Defense lawyer Allene Torres Pena said the fight was not over because the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court would still have to review the decision.

Defense contention

"That is still 6 to 10 years before the case is finally concluded," agreed defense lawyer Erwin Dimayacyac. The two lawyers are from the Public Attorney's Office.

Pena said she had expected a favorable verdict since the prosecution had failed to present concrete evidence against his clients, save the testimony of Asali.

Not even the conductor of the bus that was bombed actually saw Baharan or Trinidad leave a bag or a package in the bus.

The court relied on the testimony of suspect-turned-witness Asali, the bus conductor and an officer of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces.

The conductor testified that on Feb. 14, his bus picked up Baharan and Trinidad near the Guadalupe stop on Edsa. One sat three seats behind the driver, and the other at the back of the bus.

Suspicious bus conductor

The conductor said three things made him suspicious: Although the two men got aboard together, each separately paid for the other, handing out P20 bills. The man in the back appeared to be tinkering with something underneath his seat, and both insistently asked if they were already on Ayala.

The conductor said he initially suspected they were robbers.

"The witness noticed that the man at the back appeared to be slouching with ... his arms placed downward," the decision said. "When he would approach the man ... he noticed that the [other] man would be glaring at him in a threatening manner."

When they got near Ayala Avenue, he said, the two men got off.

Janjalani's orders

Asali's testimony may have sealed the case for the prosecution.

Asali admitted conspiring with Baharan and Trinidad in carrying out the attack and said they were acting on the orders of Janjalani, Solaiman and Rohmat.

Asali said it was he who prepared the bomb used in Makati City out of eight kilos of TNT which he had kept.

When the bomb exploded, he testified that Rohmat called to congratulate him about the "success of the mission."

He said he first met Trinidad in Mt. Cararao in Lanao del Sur where he trained in bomb-making. Rohmat, he said, "considered him a favorite of his, because [he] was able to master weapons training, martial arts and the making of explosives."

Rohmat's defense

Rohmat defended himself by saying he came to the Philippines to teach Islam and "Kung Fu," and not bomb-making. No other witness was called to corroborate his story.

Guillen rejected his defense, saying, "His testimony does not ring true."

FLASHBACK

8 killed, 96 wounded

By Cyril L. Bonabente
PDI Research

CASUALTIES IN THE 2005 Valentine's Day bombings—Makati (passenger bus): 4 killed, at least 60 injured; General Santos (Gaisano mall): 3 killed, about 30 injured; Davao (Ecoland bus terminal): 1 killed, 6 wounded.

- The bombs used in the three attacks were detonated with the use of cell phones, police said.
- The attacks occurred 13 days before the first anniversary of the SuperFerry 14 bombing off Manila Bay.
- "This is our Valentine gift to Gloria. We will find more ways to inflict damage," self-proclaimed Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Solayman said on radio after the blasts. "It is our response to unabated atrocities that the government has been committing against the Muslims."
- In the Makati explosion, two of the bombers boarded the passenger bus on Edsa. The bomb was placed in a makeshift box left at the back of the bus. The bombers used a cell phone to set off the blast after getting off at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Edsa. The bomb went off at about 6:30 p.m.
- The Davao City explosion also occurred at around 6:30 p.m. Minutes later, a bomb placed on a tricycle waiting for passengers exploded outside the Gaisano mall in General Santos City.
- "I am ready to die ... It would be like the government would be giving happiness to the Muslims ... I did not violate Islam," Muslim convert Angelo Trinidad (alias Abu Khalil), 26, said after his arraignment in April for the Makati bombing.
- SuperFerry bombing, Feb. 27, 2004: Over 100 persons were killed after a bomb, supposedly placed inside a television set, exploded on the ship while it was sailing off Cavite.
- Dec. 30, 2000 bombings: At least 22 were killed and more than 100 injured by synchronized bombings in different places in Metro Manila. The targets included a Light Rail Transit couch, Plaza Ferguson in front of the US Embassy, an abandoned gasoline station in front of Dusit Hotel in Makati City, a passenger bus in Cubao; and the cargo handling section of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Bring your own gun if you want to be a cop

From page A1

have no government-issued firearms.

Many police officers had been forced to buy their own pistols rather than "carry museum pieces," said Andaya.

"In many cases, it's bring your own gun to work," he said.

The PNP submitted documents to the House appropriations committee which effectively painted "a force constantly grappling with equipment shortages," he said.

Quoting the PNP briefing paper, Andaya said "21,204 policemen, or 19 percent of the country's 120,000-strong police force, are deployed without government-issued short firearms."

To make matters worse, the agency also lacked 14,700 vehicles to run after criminals, he said.

Junkyard

The PNP complained that lack of resources had "severely hampered" its ability to "shoot, move and communicate," Andaya said.

For instance, it had "on paper" 7,000 vehicles, but "most of them are in the junkyard or beyond repair," he noted. "All towns and all cities lack patrol vehicles. The availability of these impact on the response time to distress calls. A police station must earn a reputation for rapid response to deter crimes."

Andaya said the PNP also lamented that "our electronics and communication equipment is gravely insufficient (which) seriously hinders our ability to coordinate actions not only during high-risk operations but also during normal police operations," he said.

"If radio is down, officers are forced to communicate using mobile phones they own. They pay for these calls because there is no 'pasa load' system in the PNP," he said.

48 patrol boats needed

The PNP also informed the committee that it needed at least 48 patrol boats, "watercraft being a necessity in each of the 810 coastal towns in the country."

With the PNP in dire straits, Andaya said its modernization should be prioritized "as the combination of increasing population and poverty has triggered an increase in crime incidents. If our population grows by 1.8 million a year, then, ideally, we have to field 3,600 more policemen," he said.

The PNP proposed a budget of P35.6 billion for next year. Of this amount, P32.2 billion had been allocated for the salaries of its 119,893 uniformed and 5,611 administrative support personnel, Andaya added.

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DBM fire a cover-up, opposition claims

From page A1

cal wiring could have caused the fire.

He said the building security guard heard explosions at around 6:24 a.m., when the fire began.

"The wires and computer equipment may have overheated because they were apparently plugged in overnight," Nelvis said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said the fire had not affected important documents.

"Damage was basically limited to the computer server room, but we have back-up files so no data was lost," Neri said.

"Our networking capability is temporarily damaged [and] other physical files [were] damaged by water, but [they are] recoverable," he said.

Boncodin's deposition

Interviewed over RMN radio, Bunye was asked to comment on statements by the opposition that the fire was connected to former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin's deposition on Wednesday on the release of the fertilizer fund.

Boncodin had told the Senate committee on agriculture and food, which is conducting an investigation into the alleged fund misuse, that a big portion of the fund was quickly released three months before the elections on May 10, 2004.

The fund was allegedly distributed to congressmen and local officials to boost the election campaign of the President.

"We cannot stop some people from thinking this way, but what's important is that there should be an investigation on what caused the fire," Bunye said.

At the most, he said, the fire would only disrupt office operations in the next few days.

But Pimentel told a press forum at the Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City: "It is an attempt to cover up on the misdeeds of [Ms Arroyo] and her administration. The source documents about the fertilizer fund were in the DBM, and therefore, burning the DBM offices would be an effective means of destroying incriminatory evidence against the administration."

Pimentel said this conclusion was "very hard to resist" considering that Boncodin had just testified on the release of the fund.

Look deeper

Pimentel said investigators should carefully sift through the charred DBM office and not immediately blame the fire on faulty electrical wiring.

"Seriously, this should be looked into by the government. I hope we can still find honest to goodness government investigators who will look deeply into the source of this fire and pinpoint responsibility," he said.

Staff members of the Budget Information Systems Service (BISS) said the server room was critical because it provided DBM employees access to the department's applications and database servers.

A BISS staff member said the fire caused the suspension of online application transactions and electronic services, such as e-mail.

"Right now, the biggest impact would be the suspension of the Government Manpower Information System (GMIS)—a daily transaction application," the staff member said.

The GMIS enables DBM regional offices to access the historical data and position details of government employees.

The BISS staff member also said the fire destroyed eight computer servers, including network hubs and switches.

Nelvis said the fire was put out at 7:39 a.m., after it had destroyed more than P150,000 worth of government property.

The building is located near Ayala Bridge at the corner of Gen. Solano and P. Casal Streets, a few blocks away from Malacañang.

3 reasons

Suplico cited three reasons in theorizing that the "highly suspicious" DBM fire was connected to the ongoing Senate inquiry into the supposed misuse of the P728-million fertilizer fund:

- The fire struck just a day after Boncodin gave her deposition to the Senate committee on agriculture and food.
- Former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo and former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante left the country, apparently confirming the allegation that they had benefited from the scam.
- The DBM office is located inside the Malacañang complex.

"[The Palace] is expected to be tightly guarded by troops. It is, thus, safe to conclude that vital documents and the truth in connection with the 2004 fertilizer scam have gone up in smoke, as planned," Suplico said.

But Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the committee conducting the investigation, did not share the suspicion of Pimentel and Suplico.

Magsaysay said he was taking Neri's assurance that no pertinent documents were destroyed in the fire.

Besides, he said, the paper trail of the fertilizer fund could be traced to the regional field units of the Department of Agriculture, which received the funds ostensibly for the farmers.

Nothing dangerous

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said there was nothing "dangerous" or "revealing" about Boncodin's deposition on the latest controversy to hound the Arroyo administration.

"I think Boncodin is just being honest," he said, noting that her statement was no different from what she had already stated.

Told that what was being questioned was the quick release of the fund, Defensor said this did not make anything illegal.

Asked whether there was nothing scary then about Boncodin's deposition, he said: "I can't speak for Malacañang; I can only speak for myself, and in what she said I don't think there is anything dangerous or revealing. It was a statement of fact coming from the [former] budget secretary."

Boncodin was one of the 10 key administration officials who quit their posts on July 8 and called on the President to do the same.

The group has come to be collectively called the "Hyatt 10." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

PARTLY BURNED documents in DBM fire PDI PHOTO/ REM ZAMORA

GMA . . .

From page A1

"It will be a great honor for me to represent the Philippine Republic in the fountainhead of Western philosophy and civilization," Tiglao said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Sudden departure

In a subsequent phone interview, Tiglao declined to comment on his sudden departure from the Palace, saying only that he looked forward to "new horizons, new challenges in the service of the Republic."

Also a former foreign correspondent of the Far Eastern Economic Review, Tiglao has headed the PMS for the past four years.

He said the President has already signed his appointment papers which are to be submitted for approval to the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Cerge Remonde, the secretary for government media, said that if the report is true that Tiglao is moving to the foreign service, he was not surprised.

"He (Tiglao) has undergone a serious heart operation and he deserves to take it easier," Remonde said.

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Avian menace

EDITORIAL

IN ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S 1963 FILM, "THE BIRDS," a North California coastal town is suddenly and inexplicably attacked by birds. The aggressors are by no means birds of prey, but ordinary birds, usually the subjects of curious bird watchers or any layman delighted at the sight of plumage in riotous colors. The winged beauties suddenly turn violent, like the mythological furies provoked by an outrageous human act of ill will or betrayal. They become molesters, agents of hate and destruction.

Since then, film critics have been hard-pressed to explain the significance of Hitchcock's vision. Is the movie an allegory on natural vengeance, about the capacity of nature to strike back at human mistreatment? But the characters in the movie are by no means polluters or abusers of nature. Are the birds metaphors of God's wrath, avenging angels who deliver divine retribution? But the movie hardly has any metaphysical dimension. Does the movie foreshadow doomsday? That may be true in 1963 during the nuclear race. But the nuclear hazard has since tapered off.

Perhaps with the emerging threat of the bird flu, we could have a better appreciation of Hitchcock's movie. The attack of the birds is just a literal embodiment of what's now a viral attack that threatens to wipe out a big portion of the global population.

But against the enigma of Hitchcock's world going avian-awry, there's nothing puzzling about the bird flu. Experts agree that the pandemic is just around the corner, if not already here, what with 61 people dead out of 118 people infected in Asia since 2003, particularly in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia, and several more deaths reported in Europe and elsewhere.

History shows that the world suffers two to three pandemics every century. In the 20th century, the first pandemic was the Spanish influenza of 1918-1919, which was said to have killed 40 million people worldwide, or 2.6 percent of those who got infected. The world is barely into the new century and it appears to be running headlong to its first pandemic in the new millennium.

Aside from the fact that mankind is subject to plagues and epidemics as a matter of natural selection, there's nothing strange about the influenza because it's carried by birds through predictable migratory waves. The more recent deaths have been recorded in Europe, where the birds have enjoyed spring and summer. Now that the world has entered autumn and as the climate becomes bitter in Europe, the birds are expected to push south—to warmer climes such as ours.

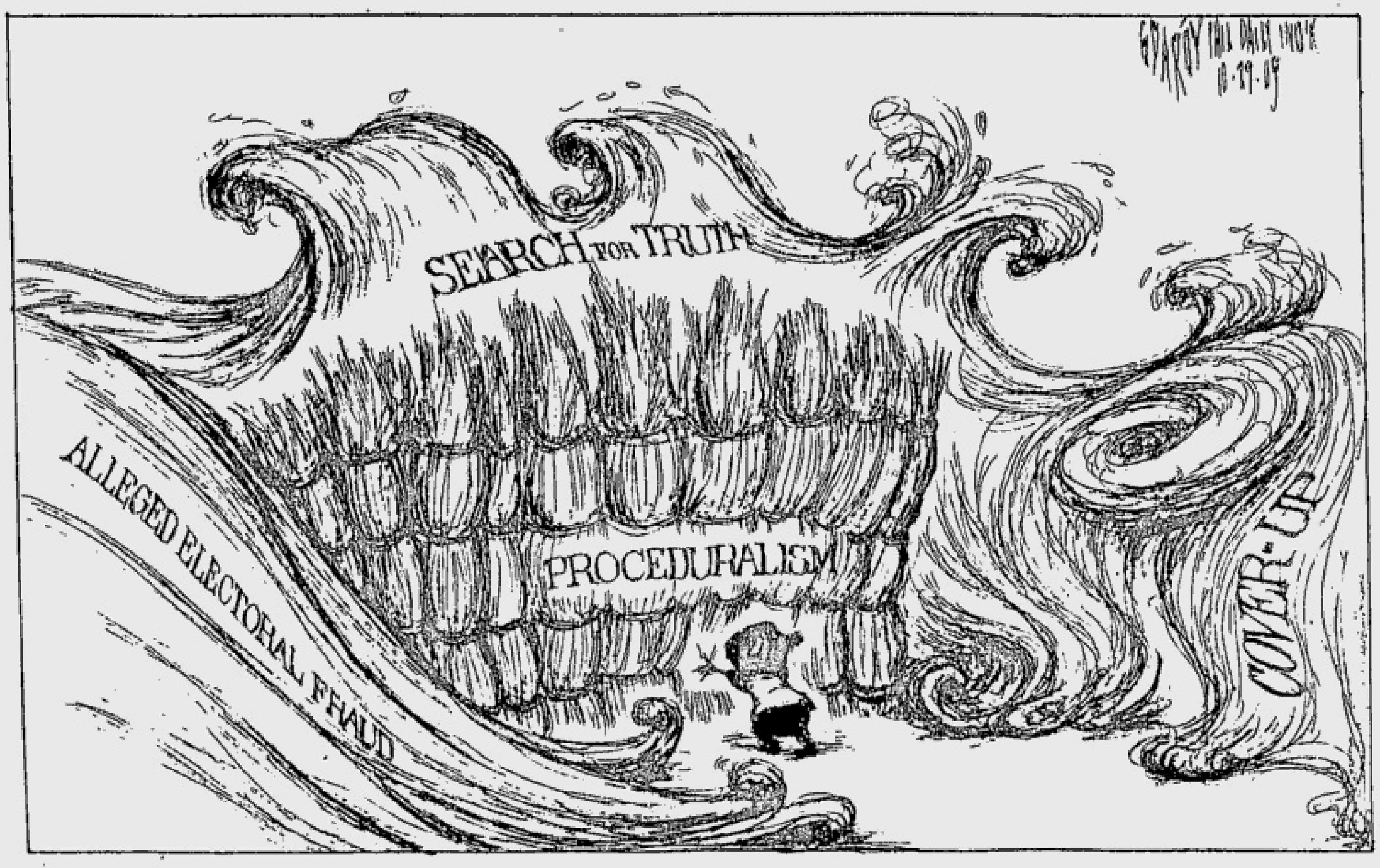
So it is just a matter of time before the Philippines feels the pressure of the bird-flu threat, if indeed the threat hasn't yet arrived. Authorities have identified several sites where the birds are expected to flock and roost to escape the cold season: the Liguasan marsh in Agusan, Lake Naujan, Pagudpud, Zamboanga, Panay, Capiz, Palawan, and the Candaba swamps. These should be considered flashpoints that need more than the usual health and epidemiological monitoring.

In addition, health and information agencies should educate the public on the phenomenon: how the influenza is transmitted, what precautionary measures to undertake, what symptoms to look for, and what to do when it strikes.

As a matter also of public information, health officials should tell the public what they have undertaken to protect the people. Although there's no specific vaccine to immunize people against avian flu, it is said that Oseltavimir is licensed for the prevention and treatment of human influenza, and it is thought to be effective regardless of the causative strain but only if treatment starts immediately. But the drug is available from only one producer and in short supply. India is reported to be producing the drug for its people. The Philippines should do likewise.

Moreover, there may be a need to follow the example of Switzerland and Romania in fencing off poultry in the meantime so that fowls don't roam free, which increases the probability of them coming into contact with migratory birds. Likewise important is enhancing basic infection control measures, imposing travel restriction, and promoting personal hygiene.

Let wise and concrete public health measures meet the pandemic. Short of such measures, Filipinos could be delivered to extinction on a wing and a prayer.



'Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WHEN THE GARCI TAPES WERE EXPOSED last June, suspicion fastened on President Macapagal-Arroyo as the person talking to the other party whom she instructed to falsify the 2004 election results in Mindanao and give her a margin of a million votes over Fernando Poe Jr. That other party was said to be Virgilio Garcillano of the Commission on Elections. If he was not, he should have surfaced immediately to deny the charge. But he did not; instead, he suddenly disappeared.

He remained in hiding despite the supposed search for him by order of the commander in chief, who did not seem to be too eager to locate him. Then, not surprisingly, came the report that he had left the country under the nose of the government authorities who should have been more watchful against his secret departure. Now he is staying in some foreign sanctuary away from the inquisitive jurisdiction of our government.

As National Security Adviser, Norberto Gonzales appeared at a Senate hearing where he admitted having negotiated the Venable contract under which the Philippine government retained an American law firm to lobby for the approval by the US Congress of certain benefits for our country, but inexplicably including the funding of the proposed revision of our Constitution. The agreed fee was $75,000 monthly, payable in advance for the first three months of the stipulated one-year term.

When asked who was to foot the bill, Gonzales said it would not be our government but certain generous donors, whom he however refused to identify. The Senate then declared him in contempt and ordered his detention until he revealed their identity. He is now invoking his delicate health and the President's "executive privilege" to get him off the hook. The Senate has released him "for humanitarian reasons," but only temporarily.

To ward off further embarrassing inquiry into the activities of her administration, President Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 464 prohibiting members of her Cabinet and other executive officials, including those in the Armed Forces, from appearing before any legislative investigation without her permission. Its legality is now being questioned before the Supreme Court, but certain pending inquiries like the validity of the NorthRail Project, have been stalemated. Perhaps for long, given the time it takes for the High Tribunal to decide.

Meanwhile, two officers of the Armed Forces who, in another Senate hearing, revealed irregularities in the counting of votes in Lanao last year to favor President Arroyo, have been yanked out of their positions in the PMA. Worse, they are now facing court martial proceedings for disregarding EO 464. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan say they were merely telling the truth, but their superiors claim they have violated the Articles of War, and against their commander in chief no less.

Similar defiance from Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz, a career civil servant, who reportedly refused to release checks totaling P5 million to the scholarship fund of a congressman who had voted against President Arroyo's impeachment, has been forcibly transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor, where he has no expertise or experience. He has lately been offered the choice of where he wants to transfer, but he says he would rather transfer to private life. As he cannot be removed because of his security of tenure, Malacañang will make it difficult for him to remain in office under a vengeful Big Sister.

And then there is the case of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona who, along with other ralliers including some aged Catholic bishops, wanted to march to the Palace of the People to present certain demands to the President of the People. They were blocked by her people who, employing their "calibrated preemptive response," doused their presumptuousness with water artillery. Former President Fidel Ramos said they should not allow themselves to be used by those who would destabilize the government. Others less sympathetic to GMA deplored the incident as another obvious effort to regiment legitimate complaints against her abuses.

The signs are there for all to see except those who are selectively blind. They will not acknowledge that Ms Arroyo's approval rating is dropping like the peso even as prices continue to rise with the people's anger. Even as the situation becomes more flammable with the enforcement of the EVAT law, the government continues to squander much needed public funds with the useless Abueva Commission, the pandering of legislators bootlicking the administration, and other improvident expenditures. The wave of the future is like a tsunami that will engulf us all. But GMA must be blandly saying, like the decadent royalty of France before the Revolution, "After us, the deluge."

President Arroyo does not need the prophet Daniel to read the handwriting on the wall. She should fear a similar fate of the wicked King Bel-Shazzar to whom the warning was addressed.

Truth is GMA won

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IF YOU REPEAT A lie often enough, people will start thinking it is true. And this has obviously been taken to heart by various groups and individuals, who peddle their lies as "truth." Unfortunately for them, there is another saying: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and you can fool all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Let us try to "unfool" the gullible and/or expose the weak underbelly of one of the "truths" being peddled.

Item: "Gloria Arroyo is an illegitimate President (because she cheated to win)." This has been repeated most often, probably because the further claims of her detractors are based on this assertion, claims such as "she does not have to be impeached to kick her out," "her illegitimacy makes it impossible for her to govern effectively" (so she must be made to resign or be kicked out), "she is not credible," etc.

Let's jog our memories a bit:

1. Voter preferences in the run-up to the 2004 elections, as recorded by the Social Weather Stations, which conducted polls every two weeks since the start of the campaign period, showed that while at the beginning (Jan. 16-28) the lead of FPJ over GMA was almost 10 percentage points (36.3 percent vs. 26.5 percent), this was whittled down so that a month later, they were running neck-and-neck, and this continued into March. By the second week of April, the polls showed GMA ahead by almost 5 points (35.3 percent to 30.8 percent), although this was not statistically significant (i.e., it still could go either way). But by the week before the elections (May 1-4), GMA's lead over FPJ was significant (37 percent to 30 percent).

The other major polling organization, Pulse Asia, also noted the same trend, although its polls were taken at slightly different time periods: an increasing trend for GMA and decreasing trend for FPJ. Its last poll, conducted from April 26-29, showed GMA leading, 37 percent to 31 percent.

Note that a six-point lead in voter preferences, if translated into actual votes, would imply a 2 to 2.5 million difference between the two candidates, depending on whether we use total votes cast or total registered voters as base.

2. Exit polls conducted on election day itself by at least three media organizations (although only one of them may have used acceptable polling methods) validated the run-up polls. All of them showed GMA as the winner.

3. The final official congressional canvass showed GMA getting 40 percent of the votes cast, while FPJ got 36.5 percent (a difference of 1.1 million votes), while the Namfrel Quick Count, based on 83 percent of total precincts (they were not present in all precincts), showed GMA with 39.4 percent and FPJ with 36.8 percent (a difference of 700,000 votes).

All figures from different sources are within the same ball park, and all indicate that GMA won. For those who think that the poll results should not be accepted, it should be pointed out that the head of the SWS is the first cousin of FPJ. More importantly, since they are now using the same polling organizations to point out that GMA has lost the trust of the nation, or that she is not satisfactory, let it be further pointed out that they cannot be selective in the use of poll results.

What is more, other circumstances obtaining during the campaign period support the conclusion that it is the claim of "illegitimacy" that is a lie: after all, her coalition party, K4, won 58 percent of senatorial seats, 87 percent of congressional seats, 85 percent of gubernatorial slots, 87 percent of city mayor seats, and 85 percent of all mayor seats. Either they carried her or she carried them, or there was some combination of both.

Could this have been the result of a grand conspiracy to commit massive cheating at all levels? But that is not what either the Catholic Bishops or Namfrel thought. Said the prelates: "Gathered for the 89th CBCP Plenary Assembly of July 10-11 at Pius XII Center in Manila the bishops reviewed the conduct of the May 10th elections and their consequences for the future course of the country. Each bishop present was asked to comment on whether or not massive fraud in the conduct of the elections was observed by him and the volunteers in his diocese so as to have affected substantially the results of the elections. With only one or two exceptions, the rest of the bishops answered in the negative. This confirms our statement of June 1, 2004: 'that there were some instances of cheating and violations of election law by political parties in their areas but these did not affect the voting in general.' It is the view of the bishops that the results of the elections reflected the will of the Filipino people."

Said Namfrel secretary general Bill Luz: "The results of the elections are credible and reflect the vote of the people. We didn't see enough electoral anomalies at the national level to have a material effect on the national results."

Then there was the endorsement (albeit last minute—but this shows that they were jumping on the bandwagon) that GMA received from the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai. And finally, it was generally acknowledged that FPJ was shooting himself in the foot during the campaign, and that the opposition was split four ways. In other words, they did it to themselves.

Given all these, the bottom line is: Like it or not, GMA is our legitimate President. Let us not allow ourselves to be misled by those who are themselves misled or who have their own political ambitions.

GMA and her angel

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT'S LAMENTABLE THAT THE OPPOSITION seems bent on using the churches in Mendiola as their "creeping rally" sites, but the bigger heartache is why church people are allowing the desecration of the churches and the Mass, the most sacred rite in the Catholic religion. Retired Bishop Teodoro Bacani was quoted as saying it's regrettable that the Palace is stopping his group from worshipping in those churches. But Bacani, who had his own morality problems in the past, doubtless realizes that most opposition leaders trooping to the Mendiola churches, perhaps with the exception of former Sen. Francisco Tatad, do not have a reputation for being "church-going" types. In fact, it has been observed that suddenly opposition people seem to have become more religious, including some atheistic communists! Moreover, as Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita pointed out, no Communion was distributed during the Mass and the homilies were anti-GMA. After one such Mass at the Shrine to St. Michael, some opposition leaders unfurled banners against GMA. There is so much hypocrisy nowadays.

As for the combat-readiness at the Palace, obviously its paranoia springs from the knowledge that the opposition's sudden piety cannot be for real. It fears that suddenly militants or terrorists aching for violence would be in Mendiola.

* * *

There were a lot of inquiries yesterday about how true was the INQUIRER headline about an alleged US Embassy report linking former President Fidel V. Ramos to a supposed coup plot last June against GMA. Frankly, that has very little credence. FVR had all the chances to stage a coup and grab power for himself during President Cory's time, but he has chosen to be a constitutionalist up to this time. He makes no bones about his advocacy for Charter change and recently he has called on GMA to make the "supreme sacrifice" of cutting her term, with the shift to the parliamentary system. But for FVR to get involved in a coup now seems as remote as the newly discovered planet. The problem with the US Embassy's intelligence officials is that they seem to be talking only with former RAM people, who, of course, have an axe to grind against FVR for foiling seven or eight coup attempts in the past.

* * *

Star columnist Ricardo Puno Jr. noted the argument of the opposition that the failed impeachment move in the House did not put a proper "closure" to whether GMA cheated to win the 2004 elections or not. Dong noted that "closure" has different meanings to various political factions. He mentioned that the Oakwood mutineers, those behind the "People's Court" and De La Salle University president Armin Luistro, in discussing the basketball scandal hitting his school, all talked about seeking "closure," but that has not been achieved.

For that matter, many issues have not had a "closure." There's the Marcos kleptocracy and the Estrada plunder charges which are far from a "closure." There has been no conviction of either Imelda Marcos or Erap. What about the case of Panfilo Lacson and the Kuratong Baleleng? Or of Dinky Soliman and the other Hyatt 10 people who have many millions to account for? What about the accountability of former Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco in the counting machines scam or the corruption charges against Mayor Jojo Binay before the Ombudsman? One could go on and on about lack of "closure." This only shows that the self-righteous opposition has no monopoly on morality.

* * *

Puno wrote that the press conference presided by Luistro brought no closure to the basketball scandal, while another columnist called on the rabidly anti-GMA educator to leave the street rallies and attend to the scandal in his backyard. As I read up on the DLSU scandal, I thought that GMA's angel must really be looking after her, for one by one her political enemies are being decimated by scandal. The message seems to be that her angel would take care of her adversaries, and she should repay heaven by assiduously upholding good governance, stamping out corruption and moving the country forward. She should not waste too much time on the political conflict—unfortunately her team seems paralyzed by it.

* * *

The DLSU scandal is simple. Two of its basketball players have been charged with using fake Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR) documents from the DepEd to get admission into the school (the PEPTCR is an exam taken by students who have not earned a high school diploma to be eligible for college). DLSU has admitted the faking of the PEPTCR after this was discovered toward the end of the 68th UAAP season. A fact-finding team formed by the school pointed to two "contractual" employees, liaison officer Raul Lacson (said to be a full-time member of the staff of Sen. Ralph Recto) and assistant team manager Manny Salgado, as the ones responsible. But the two have stoutly denied the accusation, and various allegations are surfacing about a whitewash by the school of the investigation, as guilt is said to be pointing to higher authorities.

* * *

A member of the family of one of the two players was quoted as saying they intend to come out and divulge everything they know about the basketball scam. The source said a top DLSU official even went to their house to coach them on what to say in the school's investigation. The UAAP is reportedly looking into the possibility that such a scam has been going on for years and that it involves a number of top team personalities or that they had prior knowledge of the fraud. Some observers point out that if DLSU top officials, including Luistro, now say they were not aware of what went on despite many rumors circulating, then they are stupid. Or, perhaps the activist educator has been spending too much time in Black and White Movement rallies against GMA. DLSU alumni lament that their school has become the butt of jokes because of this fraud.

The 'maginoos' of Cebu

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"YOU MADE YOUR CHILDREN, SO YOU HAVE to be responsible for them," asserts Ramonito Gallegos, a father of three, the youngest of whom is 11 years old and in grade 5, and a member of the Bisayang Maginoo Club, an organization of men in Cebu who have undergone non-scalpel vasectomy or NSV.

Speaking at a media orientation workshop on "Gender Issues in Family Planning," Gallegos joined other *maginoos* (gentlemen) as well as one "satisfied" wife, in sharing testimonials on their experiences with NSV as well as their motivations for undergoing the procedure.

"For my wife and me, the education of my children is the most important gift we can give them," added Gallegos. "But if we have lots of kids, it will mean more expenses and we run the risk that none of them will finish school. And if that happens, what will their future be like?"

Arnulfo Lazaga says his vasectomy was his "Valentine's Day gift" to his wife, having had his NSV last Feb. 14. "I felt sorry for my wife and children," Lazaga said in Visayan. He has been jobless for some time, he confessed, and his wife was burdened not just with earning a living but also with looking after their four children, ranging in age from 7 years to 9 months. "We used to rely on the calendar method," he said with a straight face, "but still my wife kept getting pregnant, until someone asked us how we used the method and we said we used the biggest calendar we could find and lay down on it."

After undergoing counseling at the government-run Vicente Sotto Medical Center, Lazaga said he was convinced to give NSV a try and so far "there's been no problem." As to common concerns about the procedure hampering a man's sexual performance, Lazaga said proudly: "*Hindi nagkulang, nadagdagan pa nga* (It hasn't been lacking, in fact it's been improved)!"

* * *

THIS Vicenta Montilla, whose husband is likewise a "Bisayang Maginoo," attests to readily. "We're happy now," she gleefully announced, "*OK na, wala nang kaba, nakakaabot na ng langit* (It's OK, we have no more fears, we're able to reach heaven)."

Montilla's story also touches on other aspects of reproductive health: women's search for the "perfect" contraceptive which is not only safe and effective, but also accessible and acceptable to them, as well as their need for effective counseling. Montilla, who has six children, said that when she had her first baby, "people told me that I would not get pregnant if I breastfed continuously, but even as I was breastfeeding my eldest, I wasn't even aware that I was already pregnant with my second. (Full and exclusive breastfeeding will protect against pregnancy but only during the first six months after delivery – RJD) Then I started taking pills, but I developed a problem with my goiter, so I wasn't able to finish even my first packet of pills. Then my husband volunteered to use a condom but I couldn't take it—I didn't like the feeling. Finally, I had an IUD inserted and it worked for eight years, but after it was taken out, I got pregnant almost immediately. I was 35 years old then, and doctors warned that it would be a risky delivery. My baby died after 30 days. After this, I talked to my husband and told him I didn't want to get pregnant again, because I didn't want to die. We went to Vicente Sotto, initially so I could have a ligation, but when health personnel there talked to my husband about how safe, simple, easy and cheap an NSV was, he decided to be the one to undergo a procedure."

* * *

MANOLITO Onde, president of Bisayang Maginoo Club, says the "number one concern" of prospective acceptors of NSV is the fear of "not having an erection."

Addressing this fear is thus the major challenge confronting the *ginoos*, who embark on information campaigns in Cebu neighborhoods through small group discussions that include not just vasectomized men but also their wives. They have also organized a "quick response" team to counter misinformation and misimpressions in the media. The *maginoos* have also put up a coffee shop open to the public at the offices of the Nagpakabana Foundation, which helped organize their club, where members are available to initiate conversations with possible acceptors and answer any urgent questions or doubts.

Also part of their advocacy, says Onde, are plans to put up a "men's only" reproductive health clinic, since they note that many men are "too embarrassed" to be seen joining women and children in public health centers and find it difficult to open up to clinic personnel about not just their contraceptive needs but also their concerns about sexually transmitted infections and even sexual dysfunction. This, by the way, is a need likewise uncovered by researchers in other parts of the world.

* * *

"MALE participation" is a current buzz word among the sexual and reproductive health community, referring to the role that men could play not just in encouraging their partners to avail themselves of contraception, but also to protect their and their partners' sexual and reproductive health, help raise and nurture their children, as well as practice family planning and responsible sexual behavior themselves.

And as the testimonials and experiences of the Bisayang Maginoo attest, men are indeed willing to play a more active role in using their sexuality responsibly and planning and looking after their families, if only they get the information and encouragement they need.

Bisayang Maginoo Club, by the way, is a project of the Nagpakabana (Care) Foundation, a private NGO founded in 1999 by Dr. Saleshe Baking, a cosmetic surgeon and obstetrician-gynecologist, providing not just medical services and training, but also scholarships to poor and deserving youth.

Beauty queens and mail-order brides

COMMENTARY

Isabel T. Escoda

CONTINUALLY BEDEVILED BY POLITICAL AND natural disasters, Filipinos, it seems, will always have home-grown beauty queens to take their minds off their problems.

In Hong Kong, where Filipina domestics comprise the largest foreign community in the territory, the news about Precious Lara Quigaman having won the Miss International 2005 title produced an interesting reaction among three Filipinas whom I happened to be sitting behind on the Star Ferry recently. I noted a frisson of excitement among two of the women, but one of them didn't seem as thrilled.

It was easy tuning in to their animated conversation. Just like the Chinese who chatter incessantly and loudly everywhere in public (on the street, in underground trains, on buses and into their cell phones), the Filipinas are equally loquacious. It's like no one has any secrets—one can find out what they think about their employers, how their children are faring back home, and what the crises in their lives are.

My compatriots' high-decible chirping on the crowded ferry that Sunday was quite diverting as they poured over a Manila tabloid's story about our latest beauty queen. I peeked over their shoulders to see photos of President Macapagal-Arroyo kissing Miss Quigaman, and another showing four past Filipina beauty queens. The tabloid's headlines gushed about Filipina pulchritude, and the women's comments on Lara ranged from "*Ang cute niya* (She's so cute)" to "*Siguradong maging artista iyan* (She'll surely become an actress)."

But one of the women, who seemed older than her two companions, commented: "*Oo, mabuti naman, ngunit kailangan pa rin tayong kumayod sa ibang bansa* (Yes, it's fine, but most of us still need to eke out a living abroad)."

Ignoring her remark, her friends wondered if Lara would be lucky and end up marrying a foreigner who'd take her away from the Philippines.

It so happened that I'd received an e-mailed article about Lara who had introduced herself at the pageant by saying, "Mabuhay! Representing the democratic and freedom-loving people of the Pearl of the Orient, I am Precious Lara Quigaman from the beautiful country of the Philippines!"

She had apparently charmed the judges not just with her exotic looks but also by her intelligent answer to the crucial question: "What do you say to people who have typecast Filipinas as nannies?"

Her reply: "I take no offense on being typecast as a nanny. But I do take offense that the educated people of the world have somehow denigrated the true sense and meaning of what a nanny is.... She is someone who gives more than she takes. She is someone you trust to look after the very people most precious to you—your child, the elderly, yourself. She is the one who has made a living out of caring for and loving other people. So to those who have typecast us as nannies, thank you. It is a testament to the loving and caring culture of the Filipino people. And for that, I'm forever proud and grateful for my roots and culture."

The story said Lara was brought up by her grandmother while her father worked as a driver and her mother as a nurse, first in Bahrain and then in the United Kingdom, where she later joined them as a teenager. A product of the OFW phenomenon, she is like the thousands of Filipino children who've grown up without one or both parents.

Perhaps Lara's smart reply to the pageant question was the result of fine schooling in England, or she may have learned about the question earlier, giving her time to prepare. Whatever it was, she got the crown and reaped some glory.

But, as that Filipina on Hong Kong's Star Ferry said, it hasn't solved the OFW's problems.

Winning a contest that's seen by many as a cattle show, one that commodifies women, does have entertainment value in developing countries, while the developed world views these enterprises as business arrangements which denigrate the female sex. So the feminist fight to value women for their talents and accomplishments, not for their pretty faces and sleek bodies, goes on—even as the cosmetic and fashion businesses continue reaping large profits. A few women may gain fame and fortune in these contests, but countless others still struggle to survive.

A recent Reuters report highlighting the commodification of women appeared in a piece titled, "Internet Dating Sites as Way Out of Poverty." It featured Rosalyn from a Bulacan village who said she wasn't fussy about men—they could be any shape, size or age. She wrote in an Internet matchmaking site that "Life is hard here in the Philippines," while expressing hopes for some Western man to whisk her away from her poverty-stricken barrio. "I don't care how my partner looks, but he should care for me," she declared innocently.

An estimated 20,000 to 100,000 Filipinas have signed up with these match-making sites, despite the Philippine government's anti-trafficking law. About 70 percent of Southeast Asian women who offer themselves as mail-order brides are Filipinas, followed by Eastern European and Russian women. And so the exploitation continues.

The Reuters article ended with a quote from Angelie of Butuan City: "I didn't know what to expect when I signed up, but it was exciting to get mail and flowers from men I'd never seen."

Only a few win beauty contests, so Rosalyn and Angelie's dreams are an alternative to slaving abroad as a servant. Sadly, such dreams can often turn into nightmares.

Isabel T. Escoda has written about Filipinos in Hong Kong in her books, "Letters from Hong Kong," "Hong Kong Postscript" and "Pinoy Abroad," her latest.

Characters in today's corporate fairy tale

THEY SAY THAT IF YOU KEEP LOOKING UP A TREE YOU can't climb, you will only hurt your neck. So I tried climbing, but found myself on the ground with every bone of my body aching and all my hopes gone.

I am a junior officer in a reputable bank where planning your career path requires plotting to kill other officers standing in your way and taking a lot of crap from your bosses. I was once told that the only way to get a promotion is by proximity and visibility. Simply being a better worker is not as good as being a pretty face who can play badminton or golf with the bosses. Simply performing what is expected of you is not as good as having lunch with the bosses so you can discuss knitting, the latest fashion designs and the blunders of other officers. Recognition for good manners and right conduct is only given in preschool. In the corporate world, the person who stabs more backs brings home the trophy.

YOUNG BLOOD

Al Reyes

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

My bitterness stems from the fact that I got stabbed so many times although I have worked in the bank for only a short time. It's not something I am proud of, but it happens to most people in a company where competition is as foul as morning breath, where being quiet is misconstrued as indolence and being loud is considered good marketing.

I have noticed that the people who take pleasure in highlighting the blunders of others are either old scumbags or their bored cohorts pretending righteousness. Most of the time, these are people you think you can talk to openly, people who seem incapable of judging you unfairly and people who have the patience to listen as you whine at length. As a matter of fact, they do listen attentively—so they can quote your complaints verbatim. They greet you with the widest smiles so they will earn your innocent trust. They are the corporate equivalent of the wicked witch in "Sleeping Beauty" and the big bad wolf in "Little Red Riding Hood" combined.

These characters in today's corporate fairy tale are composed of the overworked and underpaid junior officers, wicked senior officers who have been abandoned by their equally wicked parents (which explains their lack of manners) and their sidekicks who bow at their command and act as if being associated with power is to actually wield power. The only missing character is Prince Charming. There no longer exists that one person who will save us from office politics, wake us up from our elusive dream of promotion and fight so that ratings are based on merit and not on association or familiarity.

Where could Prince Charming possibly be? Your guess is as good as mine. He might have moved to the other side. The color of money and the lure of popularity can be hard to resist. He could have gotten tired playing the good guy. He was probably given a new identity. So today you will find him in exclusive clubs and subdivisions, enjoying the company of his former enemies.

Someone once has said that to err is human, but to get even is divine. I dream of the day when all the junior officers would take home all the files so that these senior officers would actually have a really good reason to be mad. Although I know that they would eventually find others to do the job, I find it satisfying to just even think of them being pissed off and panicky for at least a couple of days. But since we can't get rid of them all together and since finding a new job in these times is hard, I suggest that we stay put but negotiate for some things that will make our stay more tolerable.

What do we want? We want higher salaries to pay for the weekly spa treatments we need to relieve the stress of doing all the work passed on to us and for which the senior officers claim credit. We also want better medical benefits because any time soon nicotine and caffeine will take their toll on us. We want speaker phones so that everyone will hear our seniors' screams each day the Lord has made. That would drive new recruits quickly to our side.

We also want longer lunch breaks in order to regain the strength we wasted trying to figure out which of the endless tasks assigned to us should be done first while keeping in mind that everything is "rush." We want free gym membership to keep us fit so that we can continue to run around like lunatics trying to have this and that approved, explaining this and that proposal to senior officers, who don't give a hoot about such matters and whose signatures are needed on those documents.

We also want the frequency of meetings to be reduced from every morning to once a week. How on earth can they expect us to do our jobs when we have to listen the whole morning to more commands from these seniors?

We want free parking spaces. Why do they get the perks when they have more money to pay for the parking fee?

Finally, we want them to retire early.

So how do we make them say yes to our demands? I thought of the following:

- Take a terminal leave and bring with you all the files, or infect your computer with a virus and declare you have no back-up files.
- Start nasty rumors about your boss.
- Don't meet deadlines.
- Smile every time you are scolded.
- Wear the same clothes as your boss (although this seems like a stupid idea).
- Cry in your cubicle so that the staff will pity you and eventually hate your bosses.
- Watch a movie during lunch break and divert all calls to your boss' direct line.

The list can go on, but you have to be prepared for the consequences. You have to be ready to be unemployed or slapped with lawsuits.

How do we get rid of these corporate monsters and hags? I really don't know.

In the meantime, because I need money to pay for my expensive apartment, laundry, clothes, food and other things I need to survive, I have to stay with the company.

Al Reyes, 25, once dreamt of becoming a senior officer.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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PMAers can play a role in peaceful transition

LETTERS

RAMON FAROLAN'S COLUMN, "Crisis of confidence" (PDI, 10/16/05) revealed how divided our military (active and retired) is over the issue of Gloriagate. The active members are sworn to be apolitical while their retired comrades can be vocal with their feelings and opinions.

The PMA Alumni Association Inc. has for its members PMAers who are still in active military service as well as those who have retired.

I have an idea regarding the problem; it may sound simplistic from other people's point of view, but what if the PMAAAI acts as a catalyst for peaceful transition in trying times like this?

Maybe, the PMAAAI should conduct a discreet survey to find out the true sentiments of the majority of its members and then inform the President, who is besieged by controversies and charged with impeachable acts, of its findings.

The officers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are also duty-bound to defend the Constitution and to protect the Filipino people. Will the AFP just stand by the sidelines and watch the nation as it is eaten up by the fires of self-destruction continually being fueled by one woman, whose legitimacy as President is uncertain because of unresolved questions about electoral fraud?

PMAers are generally men of integrity, honor, honesty and valor. Do they want their names also put in question by being identified with an allegedly fake President?

The survey should not be a loyalty check. It should be an honest evaluation by every officer of their Commander in Chief. It could also pave the way for genuine reforms in our military, because such a survey could be used to make military officers behave as real professionals, not as political pawns taking sides during elections.

This simple exercise could yet turn around the mindset of a would-be dictator who might just be forced to think twice if he/she knew the real score. Maybe it could spell the difference between a violent upheaval and a peaceful transition. Just maybe, it could persuade a recalcitrant President to make a graceful exit for the sake of the nation.

Civil society has taken a stand; so have the religious groups. We are waiting for the military to come out with its own. The citizenry has the right to know. There must be a better way of knowing the military position than a coup d'etat which is not conducive to the nation's growth.

—TERESITO CUSTODIA,
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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
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TO : ACCREDITED HOSPITALS, AMBULATORY SURGICAL CLINICS (ASCs), NON-HOSPITAL BASED FACILITIES AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Revised and Updated Guidelines on Logbooks

One of the general accreditation requirements and conditions that apply to all Health Care Providers in appropriate cases is their compliance with all information system requirements including but not limited to reporting mechanisms established by the corporation and maintenance of accurate records of all patients, services rendered and health outcomes *(Section 53g of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the National Health Insurance Act as Amended by 9241).*

IN VIEW THEREOF, all accredited hospitals, ambulatory surgical clinics and non-hospital based facilities providing maternity care are required to maintain the following logbooks as applicable and comply with the succeeding guidelines.

Type of Logbook	Hospital		ASCs	Non-Hospital Based Facilities
	Primary	Secondary & Tertiary		
1. Admission Logbook				
a. Manual	✓	n/a	n/a	✓
b. Computerized	n/a	✓	n/a	n/a
2. Emergency Room Logbook	n/a	✓	n/a	n/a
3. Operating Room Logbook	n/a	✓	✓ **	n/a
4. Diagnostic Radiology Logbook	n/a	✓	✓ **	n/a
5. Laboratory Logbook	✓ *	✓	✓ **	n/a

* with licensed laboratories
** if applicable

I. General Guidelines on Logbooks

a) The patients' data shall be recorded by the abovementioned providers in the individual logbooks as follows:

• Admission Logbook	for patients admitted or confined in a health care facility
• Emergency Room Logbook	for patients who stayed in the emergency room whether or not subsequently admitted as an in-patient
• Operating Room Logbook	for patients who underwent procedures in the operating room whether or not subsequently admitted as an in-patient
• Diagnostic Radiology Logbook'	for patients who underwent diagnostic radiological procedures in the radiology room whether or not subsequently admitted as an in-patient
• Laboratory Logbook	for patients who underwent laboratory procedures whether or not subsequently admitted as an in-patient

b) Logbooks should be made available anytime in the place specific for their purpose, to wit:

	To be placed at the.....
• Admission Logbook	- admitting office
• Emergency Room Logbook	- emergency room or complex
• Operating Room Logbook	- operating room or complex
• Diagnostic Radiology Logbook	- radiology room or complex
• Laboratory Logbook	- laboratory room or complex

c) The emergency, operating, diagnostic and laboratory logbooks shall contain the following datafields as prescribed by the Corporation for uniformity.

Type of Logbook	Field Number/Data	Description
Emergency Room Logbook	1 Case Number	• the unique number assigned by the hospital to each patient regardless of the number of confinements.
	2 Date and Time of Admission	• the date and time of admission to be entered in chronological order
	3 Name of Patient	• the complete first, middle and last names of patients (middle initial is not acceptable)
	4 Date of Birth	• the complete year, month and day of birth
	5 Sex	• the gender of patient
	6 Address	• the complete residential address of the patient
	7 Membership	• "NH" for NHIP beneficiaries whether members or dependents • "NN" for Non-PhilHealth beneficiaries
	8 Procedure Done (if applicable)	• the procedure/s done on the patient
	9 Diagnosis	• the physician's initial impression upon admission (chief complaint should not be indicated in lieu of diagnosis upon admission)
	10 Attending Physician	• the name of physician who provides care for the patient
Operating Room Logbook	1 Case Number	• the unique number assigned by the hospital to each patient regardless of the number of confinements.
	2 Date and Time of Procedure	• the date and time the procedure is done to be entered in chronological order
	3 Name of Patient	• the complete first, middle and last names of patients (middle initial is not acceptable)
	4 Date of Birth	• the complete year, month and day of birth
	5 Sex	• the gender of patient
	6 Pre-operative Diagnosis	• the diagnosis prior to the performance of the procedure (chief complaint should not be indicated in lieu of diagnosis upon admission)
	7 Post-operative Diagnosis	• the diagnosis after the procedure is done
	8 Procedure Done	• the procedure done on the patient
	9 Surgeon	• the name of physician who performed the procedure. In case of a team of physicians, the team leader's name should be written.
	10 Anesthesiologist	• the name of physician who administered the anesthesia
Diagnostic Radiology Logbook	1 Case Number	• the unique number assigned by the hospital to each patient regardless of the number of confinements.
	2 Date and Time of Examination	• the date and time the examination is done to be entered in chronological order
	3 Name of Patient	• the complete first, middle and last names of patients (middle initial is not acceptable)
	4 Date of Birth	• the complete year, month and day of birth
	5 Sex	• the gender of patient
	6 Type of Examination	• the diagnostic radiologic procedure done
Laboratory Logbook	1 Case Number	• the unique number assigned by the hospital to each patient regardless of the number of confinements.
	2 Date and Time of Examination	• the date and time the examination is done to be entered in chronological order
	3 Name of Patient	• the complete first, middle and last names of patients (middle initial is not acceptable)
	4 Date of Birth	• the complete year, month and day of birth
	5 Sex	• the gender of patient
	6 Type of Examination	• the laboratory procedure done

II. Specific Guidelines for Logbook Users

a) For Hospitals Using the Admission Logbook

1. Accredited PRIMARY hospitals shall use only *one admission logbook* in book-bound form and with pre-numbered pages to be printed, published and *distributed solely by PhilHealth.*

SECONDARY and TERTIARY hospitals on the other hand, are required to use *computerized logbooks*. The system's information should-

- capture all patient admission data *in real time;* and
- have an *audit trail* showing the name of user, changes made and time done among others.

2. The names of all patients whether or not PhilHealth members or dependents should be entered in the manual or computerized admission logbook in *chronological order* within 24 hours from consultation or admission.

3. Both the *manual* and *computerized* admission logbooks shall contain the following data fields as prescribed by the Corporation for uniformity:

Type of Logbook	Field Number/Data	Description
Admission Logbook (Manual and Computerized)	1 Case Number	• the unique number assigned by the hospital to each patient regardless of the number of confinements.
	2 Date and Time of Admission	• the date and time of admission to be entered in chronological order
	3 Name of Patient	• the complete first, middle and last names of patients (middle initial is not allowed)
	4 Date of Birth	• the complete year, month and day of birth
	5 Sex	• the gender of patient
	6 Address	• the complete residential address of the patient
	7 Membership	• "NH" for NHIP beneficiaries whether members or dependents • "NN" for Non-PhilHealth beneficiaries
	8 Admitting Diagnosis	• the physician's initial impression upon admission (chief complaint should not be indicated in lieu of diagnosis upon admission)
	9 Admitting Physician	• the physician who first diagnosed the patient upon admission but may not necessarily be the attending physician

4. Any claim for PhilHealth patients not entered in the *Manual* or *Computerized* logbooks as the case may be shall be held in abeyance pending the outcome of an investigation within the period prescribed by the Corporation.

5. For statistical purposes, the following *Monthly Summary of Hospital Activities* shall be accomplished after the last entry for the month in the manual admission Logbook to be signed by the Medical Director/Chief of Hospital or his authorized representative.

Summary of Activities for the Month of ________	
A	Number of patients remaining forwarded from the previous month
B	Number of patients admitted for the month
C	Number of patients discharged for the month a) NHIP Members/Beneficiaries
	b) Non-NHIP
D	Number of patients remaining to be forwarded to the succeeding month (A + B - C)
	______________________ Signature of the Medical Director/Administrator

Secondary and tertiary hospitals using the computerized admission logbook are likewise required to submit the above mentioned monthly report in both soft (diskette) and hard copies.

b) For Hospitals Using the Emergency, Operating, Diagnostic and Laboratory Logbooks

1. The hospital shall provide their own emergency, operating, diagnostic and laboratory logbooks.

2. Secondary and tertiary hospitals with several emergency rooms, operating rooms, laboratory rooms are allowed to maintain one logbook per area. However, the hospital shall maintain only one diagnostic radiology logbook.

3. Primary hospitals with licensed laboratories and/or with x-ray facilities shall maintain the corresponding logbook for all pertinent procedures done.

4. Secondary and tertiary hospitals are allowed to maintain their current method of recording laboratory procedures either in manual or computerized methods.

5. The patients who stayed in the emergency room for less than 24 hours but whose conditions are emergency in nature should be recorded in the emergency room logbook for purposes of claims reimbursement with PhilHealth.

c) Inspection of Hospital's Admission Logbook

1. All PhilHealth surveyors are directed to inspect the duly prescribed admission logbooks. For the manual admission logbook, surveyors shall draw a line following the last entry on the day of inspection and affix their signatures, date and time of inspection.

Surveyors may get the admission logbook for review in the PhilHealth Offices provided a temporary replacement admission logbook is provided by the surveyors. However, the logbook after review shall be returned to the hospital in the soonest possible time with the period during which the temporary logbook was used properly noted in the original manual logbook.

In the case of computerized admission logbooks, the hospitals should provide the surveyors with soft (diskette) or hard copies of the document for the particular period of interest.

d) For Ambulatory Surgical Clinics (ASCs) Using the Operating, Diagnostic and Laboratory Logbooks

1. The ASCs shall provide their own operating, diagnostic and laboratory logbooks.

2. They are allowed to maintain their current method of recording laboratory procedures either in manual or computerized methods.

e) For Non-Hospital Based Facilities Using the Admission Logbook

1. The names of all patients whether or not PhilHealth members or dependents should be entered in the *manual admission logbook* in chronological order *within 24 hours* from consultation or admission.

Type of Logbook	Field Number/Data	Description
Admission Logbook (Manual)	1 Case Number	1. the unique number assigned by the hospital to each patient regardless of the number of confinements.
	2 Name of Patient	2. the complete first, middle and last names of patients (middle initial is not allowed)
	3 Date of Birth	3. the complete year, month and day of birth
	4 Address	4. the complete residential address of the patient
	5 Membership	5. "NH" for NHIP beneficiaries whether members or dependents "NN" for Non-PhilHealth Beneficiaries
	6 Admitting Diagnosis	6. the physician's initial impression upon admission (chief complaint should not be indicated in lieu of diagnosis upon admission)

III. BREACH OF WARRANTIES OF ACCREDITATION

Non-compliance with these guidelines shall be regarded as a violation of *Section 53 (g)* and a breach of warranties of accreditation (Section 150) of the IRR of the NHI Act as amended. Said offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00). In addition, its accreditation shall be revoked or suspended from three (3) months to the whole term of accreditation.

IV. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

These guidelines shall take effect on April 1, 2006. However, prior to the said effectivity, hospitals can still use the current logbooks subject to the rules of PhilHealth Circular No. 7, s-2002. Furthermore, in case the PhilHealth-provided Manual Admission Logbook is not yet available by April 1 next year, the hospitals can still use their current admission logbook subject to the said rules.

With regard to secondary and tertiary hospitals that could not yet comply with the prescribed Computerized Admission Logbook, they can still use their current admission logbook but they should submit a written action plan addressed to the Accreditation Committee on their implementation of the aforesaid.

V. REPEALING CLAUSE

All previous issuances inconsistent with the above guidelines are hereby considered repealed or amended.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III
Officer-in-charge
Office of the President and CEO

Constitutionalist or dictatorial?

CON-COM CHAIR JOSE ABUEVA was all wrong when he said that "the formation of the commission (is) legal because the President has the executive power to initiate and implement laws, including the proposed revision of the Charter. We're part of the civil society. We're a study group to review and work out on the proposals that we will present to the President."

Yes, Abueva was partially correct when he said that President Macapagal-Arroyo has the power to issue executive orders as part of her vast powers of governance. This executive power is briefly described as the power to enforce and administer laws. However, it is wrong to say that she is also vested with the power to propose the revision of the Constitution.

The Constitution is very clear in saying that any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by (please take note of the word "proposed by"):

1. The Congress upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members;
2. A constitutional convention. (Article XVII, Section 1)

Considering that Abueva's group is called the Constitutional Consultative Commission (Con-Com), with budget from the President, it may be presumed that it is operating under the clout of a Constitutional Convention. However, for the Con-Com to qualify as such, the Constitution also clearly and unequivocally states how the Constitutional Convention should be established, and I quote "The Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of all its members, call a constitutional convention, or by a majority vote of all its Members, submit to the electorate the question of calling such a convention." (Article XVII, Sec. 3)

Therefore, Abueva's position on the legality of the Con-Com is wide off from what the Constitution provides. Remember, the Constitution is the basic and paramount law to which all other laws must conform, and to which all persons, including the highest officials of the land, must defer.

I admire Abueva's sincerity to change the Constitution. However, no act—no matter how noble its intention is—is valid if it runs counter to the Constitution. The Constitution must ever remain supreme. I believe Abueva knows this principle, but he seems to have forgotten it.

Is Abueva the constitutionalist that he claims to be or does he have dictatorial tendencies? Or is it just a lapse in judgment on his part?

—LEO CONCON,
Manila Law College,
leoconcon@yahoo.com

Cabrera not in Mendiola massacre

WE READ WITH INTEREST THE Oct. 18 column of Ramon Tulfo.

We fully agree with him when he wrote: "Marcos' military and police forces never made the mistake of dispersing prayer rallies. Their patience knew no bounds when demonstrations were participated in by well-known opposition figures."

During the Marcos years, retired P/Brig. Gen. Narciso M. Cabrera, a US-trained crowd control expert, was among the few police chiefs of Manila who handled crowd management for six years in the most humane manner possible. He was able to strike a reasonable balance between the right to peaceful assembly and the right of the state to preserve itself.

Aside from being a lawyer, he also personally led his men in all the rallies, exercising maximum tolerance tempered with the protection of the rights of the demonstrators and non-participants, though not forgetting to give a tactful admonition to militant leaders to respect and understand the duty of the police to maintain law and order. For six solid years, no life was sacrificed on the part of the militants and police.

However, to set the record straight, it is not true that Cabrera was replaced by Gen. Alfredo S. Lim after the alleged Mendiola massacre. Cabrera was long retired from the service before the Mendiola incident. We are sure that our good friend Ramon Tulfo would welcome this correction.

—P/GEN. EDGAR DULA TORRES,
former assistant
superintendent to
Gen. Narciso M. Cabrera in the
Manila Police District

More mass transport systems needed

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN ADVOCATE of mass transport systems, especially in Metro Manila and its environs. Since 1969, I have proposed to successive administrations in government that six elevated railway systems be built at the rate of one every two and a half years. I also suggested the establishment of a ferry service in the Pasig River for Metro Manila and its environs.

After 36 years, we only have three elevated railway systems and the Edsa route has yet to reach Balintawak. The Pasig River ferry service started during the administration of former President Ramos, but it was discontinued because of the stench from the river. I doubt if the project was initiated in all seriousness.

It is heartening to know that, at last, the Pasig River ferry project has been resurrected. This time, I hope that the government will pursue it seriously. When fully operational, more stations should be built in Mandaluyong, San Juan, Marikina, San Mateo and Montalban. All obstacles along the way should be removed, e.g., sunken derelicts and objects jutting above the surface of the water.

The river should also be widened where necessary, to aid navigation, and illegal structures along the banks, including shanties, should be removed. Most important, the whole length of the waterway should be dredged to avoid scraping of the boats' bottoms and to induce better river flow, as well as to eliminate the source of the stench.

The government should seriously consider another waterway ferry service along Laguna de Bay. This will serve towns and cities in Rizal and Laguna.

With six elevated railway systems and ferry services along the Pasig River and Laguna de Bay, we can proudly claim that the government has served the people well.

—APOLONIO G. RAMOS,
42 Mindanao St.,
Marikina City

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Gambling, loud music banned in C. Luzon cemeteries

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Game cards and stereo sets using loud speakers are banned in Central Luzon's cemeteries on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, a top police official in the region said.

The rule applies to all 483 cemeteries in Central Luzon's seven provinces on Nov. 1 and 2 so the occasion would be remembered solemnly, said Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, deputy regional police director for administration.

Palad said they issued the order on the request of Catholic lay groups in the region.

He said even singing, using portable karaoke machines, has been banned in memorial parks.

Palad said the police would continue doing body, bag and vehicle searches for firearms, explosives, knives and liquor in line with police's antiterror and anticriminality campaigns.

"Expect extra tight security," said Palad, quoting an order from Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, regional police director and chair of the multi-sectoral Oplan Kaluluwa in the region.

The police on Friday also established assistance centers in cemeteries along the Manila North Road (MacArthur Highway) from Bulacan to Tarlac, Maharlika Highway from Bulacan to Nueva Ecija, and Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road from Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales.

The centers are staffed with paramedics, radio operators and mechanics from civic groups.

At least 5,000 policemen and 450 police recruits, augmented by barangay peacekeeping action teams, would be fielded starting Friday to beef up security in bus stations in the regions.

"I hope the commuting public would bear with us while we check bags and cargoes for weapons," Palad said.

Additional policemen would also be stationed in shopping malls where people are expected to flock.

At the same time, the police would keep a tight watch on key installations like airports, oil depots and telecommunication towers to prevent "possible sabotage by communist rebels and terrorists."

"We won't allow them to disturb the holidays or even sow terror," Palad said.

The Central Luzon police's hotline for assistance or alert for any unusual incident is (045) 860-2490. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BONDAGE TO THE SOIL

RAFFY LERMA

A man and his son take a break planting peanuts in Barangay Parang in Concepcion, Tarlac, one of the villages inside the more than 6,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita. Many farmers in the estate have turned from planting sugarcane to other crops following a crippling strike that all but destroyed the hacienda.

Hundreds stranded in Laguna towns as rains lead to floods

STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA—CLOSE TO 200 COMMUTERS and vendors transporting their products from Sta. Maria and Mabitac towns to markets in Siniloan and elsewhere were stranded as early as 6 a.m. yesterday as rivers overflowed and roads were submerged in flood waters when a heavy downpour occurred Thursday night until yesterday.

These three towns also suffered a five-hour power outage starting at 3 a.m. to 8 a.m. yesterday.

Frank Tibay, municipal administrator of Mabitac town, told the INQUIRER that about knee-deep flood waters submerged the national roads at dawn. He said he feared that about 40 percent of the 74,000 hectares of still unharvested rice fields could be damaged.

He said the floodwater along the roads of Barangays Sinag-Tala and Nanguma were very deep for vehicles to pass through.

Cynthia Gamez, a church worker, also told the INQUIRER that in Sta. Maria town, Barangay San Antonio was flooded with knee-deep water as of 6 a.m., preventing commuters from crossing through Mabitac and nearby towns.

Also flooded were Barangays Pag-asa, Bayanihan, Lambak and Libis, she said.

Gamez said the power outage lasted only until 8 a.m.

Maan de los Reyes Leopando, of Siniloan town, said the huge Siniloan River already overflowed as of 11 a.m. yesterday prompting her sister Joy and residents living along river banks to transfer to higher places.

She said the low-lying barangays in this town were already flooded with knee-deep water forcing the residents to evacuate.

The rivers in Pangil, Laguna were also near overflowing as rains continued to pour heavily.

Leonardo Pajarillo and Pening Aguas, both residents of the said town, said that the lower portions of Barangays Isla, San Jose and Natividad were submerged with knee-deep floodwater.

But the residents of those barangays not yet flooded have placed their belongings to higher grounds to prevent damage.

Tibay said that if the rains would not stop and if the flooding would take three more days or more to subside, chances are, the submerged rice for harvest would start to decay and this would be costly for farmers and owners of the rice fields.

He said the heavy downpour has given them difficulty in preparing for their yearly celebration of "Araw ng Mabitac" today.

They were supposed to do community services as part of their celebration.

"But if the rains continue, we fear that the activities could not take place as expected," Tibay said.

Meanwhile, the river in Real, Quezon also overflowed on Thursday morning, as heavy rains continued overnight but the water subsided yesterday when rains slowed down, according to Demosthenes Raynera, social action center deputy coordinator. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Greenpeace's flagship arrives in Puerto

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE Rainbow Warrior, the flagship of the international environment group Greenpeace, arrived in the port of this city yesterday as part of its 10-week tour on renewable energy campaign in Asia.

It took the ship a while to arrive in Palawan from Hong Kong because it used its wind sails, according to Leah Guerrero of the group's media affairs in the country.

According to Greenpeace, an international environmental group, the Philippine tour is part of the Asia-Pacific Energy Revolution Tour 2005.

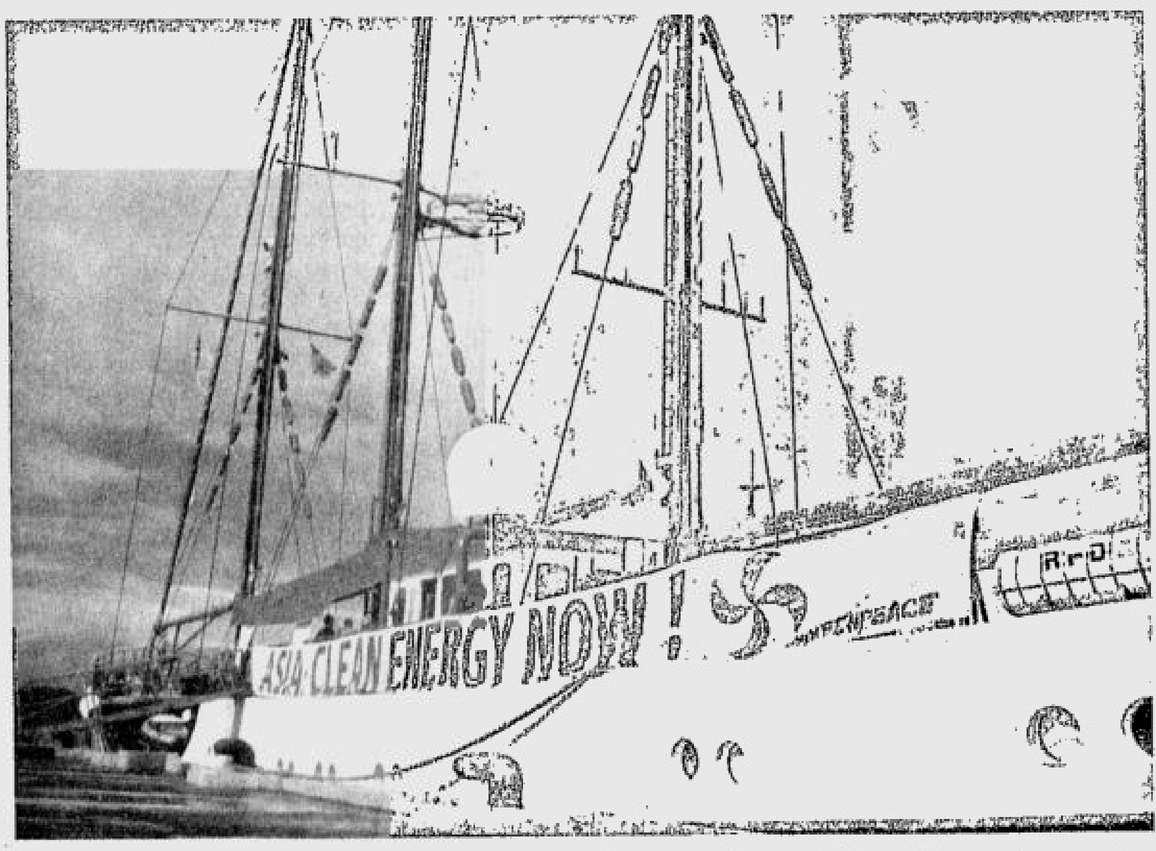
The boat will also visit Iloilo and Bacolod.

The tour began in Australia in July, made its way through Hong Kong, the Philippines and it would end in Thailand.

The activist group is seeking the support of the public for the rejection of "dirty sources of energy" that harm the environment because they bring about dramatic changes in the earth's climate.

It is now promoting the use of renewable energies derived from the sun, wind and water and organic materials.

"Greenpeace has embarked on a historic ship tour of Asia and the Pacific this year to communicate the urgency of the climate crisis as well as the availability of solutions to problem. Solutions that are not working because they are not being used," according to a press statement.



GREENPEACE'S flagship, the Rainbow Warrior, makes its way to the port of Puerto Princesa to promote the use of renewable energy sources and campaign for a stop to the use of fossil fuels, such as coal.

JOFELLE TESORIO/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The Rainbow Warrior II, after docking in Puerto, will sail through the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park, a natural world heritage site.

It was welcomed by Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn who had the first tour of the ship.

The campaign ship will be open to the public while it is docked in the city.

A group of Tagbanua indigenous women from the Nagkakaisang Tribu sa Palawan performed a ritual to ask for heaven's grace and good luck for the Greenpeace's campaign.

The international campaigners of Greenpeace will also visit Puerto Princesa's St. Paul Subterranean River, where the famous Underground River is located, to install renewable energy systems in the coastal station that serves as a jumping pad to the vital tourist destination.

Greenpeace is hoping to get political support for renewable energy initiatives.

The tour coincides with the 20th anniversary of the sinking of the original Rainbow Warrior in New Zealand on July 10, 1985, where two bombs exploded on the ship, killing a crew member.

The Rainbow Warrior is the most famous campaign ship of Greenpeace. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gov't won't donate aging dams to Benguet

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) said it cannot just give Ambuklao and Binga dams to the provincial government without earning a single centavo because the national government is still facing a budget deficit.

Psalm officials said the possibility of donating the two hydroelectric power plants to the provincial government was "very remote."

They said under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), the Psalm's only option is to privatize all government-owned or -controlled power generation facilities.

In a letter, Nieves Osorio, Psalm president and chief executive officer, told Vice Gov. Crescencio Pacalso that allowing Benguet to take over the operation of the two dams would be contrary to the intent of privatization, which is to shore up more revenues for the national treasury.

But Board Member Juan Nazarro Jr. assailed Psalm's decision not to donate the dams, saying the refusal was "an act of ingratitude to the Benguet people who have hosted the dams for many years."

The provincial board passed a resolution in April asking the government, through the National Power Corp. and Psalm, to donate the dams to the province instead of auctioning them off.

The board feared that selling the dams to private firms would further lead to higher electric power rates and would cause the displacement of more residents in the area.

Ambuklao is in Bokod town while Binga is in Itogon.

The Napocor owns the two dams but it has entered into a management contract with a private firm, the Itogon Power Generation Corp., to run Binga.

Napocor, in its comment on the board's resolution, said donating the dams to the province would derail the national government's efforts to reduce its debt in the power sector.

Napocor said privatization would still be the government's best move considering that the dams' rehabilitation would need a huge capital outlay that the provincial government may not be able to afford.

Ambuklao's facilities need repair while Binga would need a huge amount of money to fund massive dredging activities, it said.

Nazarro, however, said the refusal of Psalm and Napocor to donate the dams showed their growing apathy to the welfare of the Benguet people whose lands were submerged due to the dams' construction.

"Give Caesar what is due Caesar. If the dams were not built, those lands would still be productive farmlands today," he said.

Nazarro, a lawyer who heads the provincial board's legal committee, said the government earned much from the dams' operations and it is only proper that the Benguet people be repaid. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER *Visayas*

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Cebu, Capiz prepare early for bird flu

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Felipe Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—IT'S BETTER TO BE PREPARED than sorry.

Believing that the threat to Cebu of a bird flu outbreak is real, the city of Cebu has been declared under a "State of Disaster Preparedness."

The Cebu City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved the resolution declaring the disaster preparedness status authored by Councilor Gerardo Carillo, chair of the committee on social services, which also aims to utilize the calamity fund of the city for the campaign against bird flu.

The resolution did not specify how much money would be allocated but the newly formed Task Force on Bird Flu Prevention and Control, created by Mayor Tomas Osmeña, recommended a budget of P10 million.

Dr. Nestor Alonso II, the city's consultant on veterinary medicine and head of the task force, said the declaration of the city of Cebu in a state of preparedness is necessary in order to get enough funds for the purchase of testing kits, protective suits for personnel of the Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation (Eruf) and for the conduct of an education campaign on bird flu.

Singapore imports

Alonso said the P10 million will be used for the purchase of new testing kits from Singapore that would come up with results in just four hours, protective suits for Eruf personnel who are tasked with responding to reports of cases of bird flu affecting humans, and the education campaign which includes the printing of posters and materials detailing how people can protect themselves against the virus.

Part of the campaign is the monitoring of the arrival of migratory birds in the different places of Cebu City and Cebu Province.

The task force urged the public to immediately report sightings of migratory birds by sending text messages or calling mobile phone number 0917-324-6773.

Initially, sightings of migratory birds have been reported on Pond A of Cebu City's South Reclamation Project (SRP) and coastal areas in Badian town, 96.7 km south of here.

Favorite hangout

Migratory birds are also expected to flock at Olango Island off Mactan Island starting next month.

Alonso said it is good to get blood samples of the chickens and other domesticated birds in those areas to make sure they are free from the disease.

Upon the request of Mayor Osmeña, the task force is also considering the idea of converting the controversial city condominium into a quarantine center, which means that suspected bird flu victims will be isolated there.

The city condominium became controversial when the mayor ordered the alleged illegal occupants to vacate the place. The dispute is now pending in a court here.

Alonso said the city condominium is a good choice for that purpose because it is located near the city hospital.

Renovation

But the city should renovate or rehabilitate the building to make it fit as a quarantine center.

It is for this reason that the city engineering department was also included as a member of the task force, Alonso said.

The other departments that comprised the task force include the city veterinary office, city health office, city social welfare office, Cebu City Police Office, Bureau of Fire and Protection, and the city administrator's office.

Cebu third district Rep. Antonio Yapha, who chairs the House committee on health, also asked the different government agencies, including the quarantine office, to be on the watch for the entry of birds in the province's different seaports and airports.

Yapha said it is also good to be prepared by way of conducting strict surveillance and monitoring.

In Roxas City, health authorities are monitoring closely the migratory birds in the coastal villages in Panay town and an island off Roxas to prevent any possible outbreak of the dreaded avian flu virus.

Provincial Veterinarian Leonel Obordo said there are five other coastal towns in the province but they will prioritize Panay town and Olotayan Island in Roxas where most migratory birds are.

An avid bird hunter told the INQUIRER that almost 20 breeds of migratory birds use Panay coastal low-lying areas as "refueling station."

The birds pump up their fat reserves by feeding on rich stock of invertebrates in the coastal areas' mud flats.

The other coastal towns are Pontevedra, President Roxas, Pilar, Ivisan and Sapian.

The decision to monitor the migratory birds, which could be possible carriers of bird flu virus, was reached during the meeting with provincial veterinary and health officials on Wednesday.

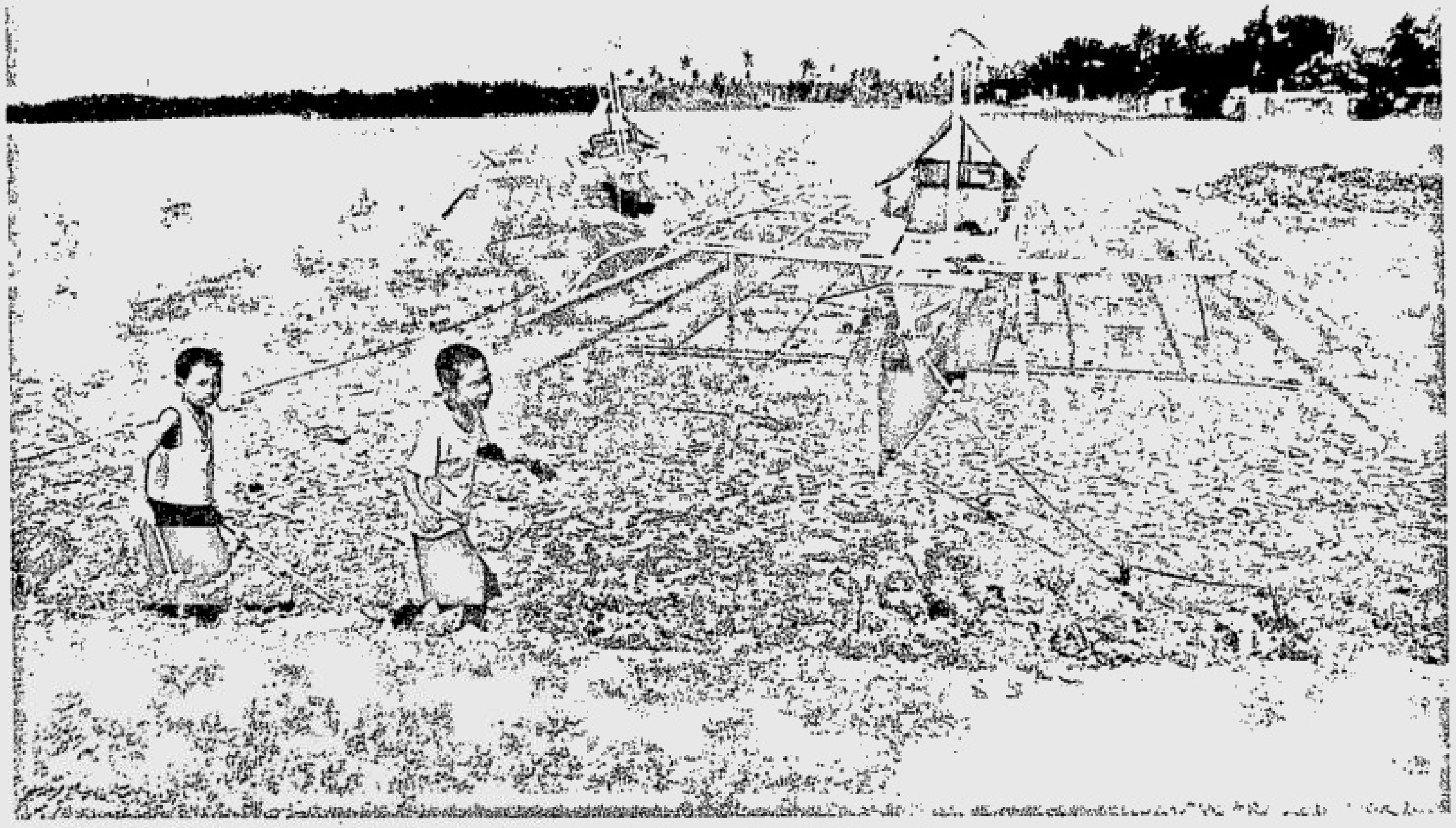
Shelter, food

In his privilege speech on Wednesday, board member Jose Escolin Jr. said migratory birds usually flock the mangrove swamps of the province's coastal towns in November to seek shelter and eat.

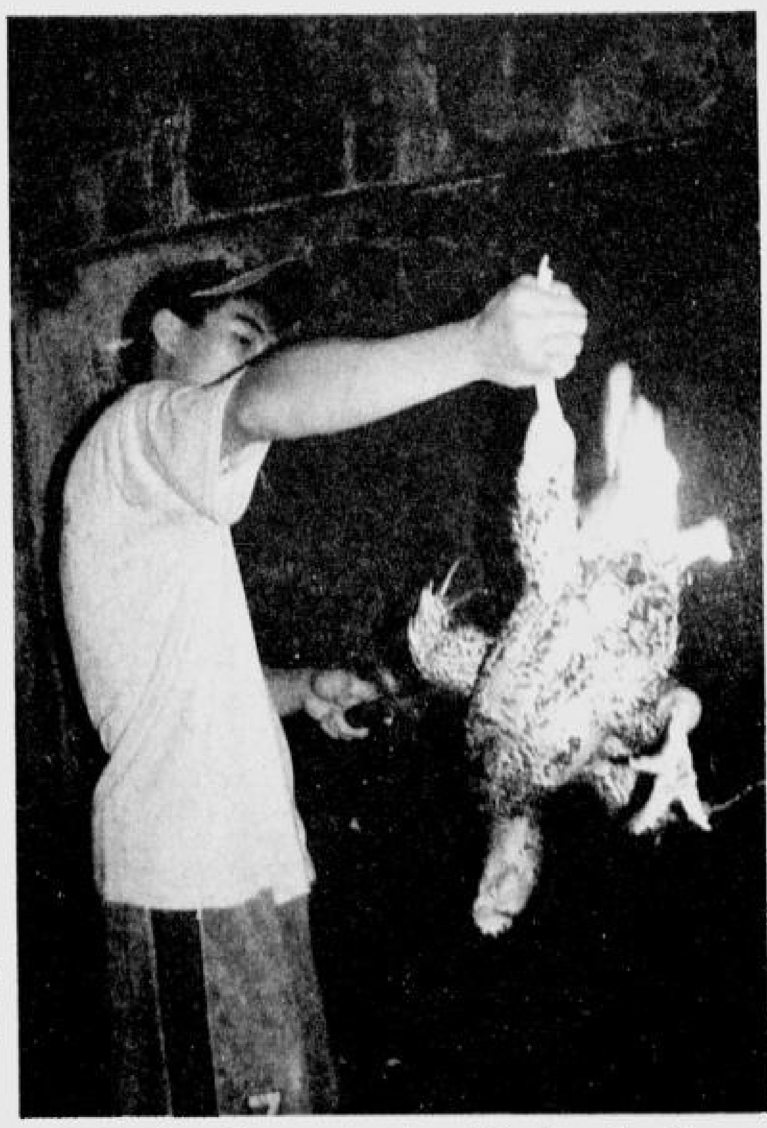
Bird hunting has been the hobby of some individuals here particularly during November and December, he added.

Escolin urged local officials and the residents to inform the health officials about the presence of migratory birds in their areas.

"There is no bird flu in the country and to include Capiz. But ours is precautions and awareness against this. Remember, prevention is better than cure", he added.



OLANGO ISLAND in Cebu, one of the favorite destinations of migratory birds in the country LYN RILLON



IN THE North, residents continue the traditional way of cooking chicken, called *pinikpikan*, despite threats of bird flu.
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Tollway fee suspended indefinitely

By Clarissa S. Batino and Nancy C. Carvajal

TOLL ROADS WILL NOT START charging new rates with the imposition of the value-added tax (VAT) on Nov. 1.

The Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), sole franchisee operating toll roads in the country, said it would wait for the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to approve the adjustment.

The TRB said it would consult the Bureau of Internal Revenue first if VAT should be imposed on the toll.

PNCC spokesperson Charito Chavez said machines would be re-calibrated only after the TRB gave its approval.

Though Chavez said she could only speak for SLEx (South Luzon Expressway) and the Skyway, a PNCC official who requested anonymity said all other toll-collecting highways—North Luzon Expressway (NLEx), Manila-Cavite Coastal Road and Southern Tagalog Arterial Road—would also defer the adjustment.

But Jose "Ping" de Jesus, president of the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), said the company would start collecting the expanded value added tax at the NLEx starting Nov. 1 unless the TRB asked for a deferment.

The NLEx from Balintawak, Quezon City to Sta. Ines in Pampanga, now operated by the (MNTC) increased its toll early this year after its upgrading project was completed.

The proposed new toll rates on SLEx, from Magallanes to Calamba, are P84 for Class 1(from P76), P167 for Class 2 (from P151), and P250 for Class 3 (from (P227). Class 1 includes cars and other light vehicles, Class 2 are light trucks and buses, and Class 3, heavy trucks.

On the elevated portion of the Skyway from Buendia to Bicutan, the new rates will be P94 for Class 1 (from P85), P187 for Class 2 (from P170) and P281 for Class 3 (from P255).

The new toll rates along the Coastal Road will be P17 for Class 1 (from P15), P33 for Class 2 (from P30) and P50 for Class 3 (from P45). For the Star, the new toll rates are P16 (from P10) for Class 1, P37 (from P33) for Class 2, and P57 (from P50) for Class 3.

At NLEx, the new fees will be P223 for Class 1 (from P203), P557 for Class 2 (from P507) and P669 for Class 3 (from P609).

Fees from Balintawak to North Bocaue, classified as open highway, are flat rates of P46 for Class 1 (from P42), P116 for Class 2 (from P106) and P139 for Class 3 (from P127). The Skyway and Coastal Road are also open highways.

On a closed highway like the stretch from South Bocaue to Sta. Ines and SLEx, motorists are charged for every kilometer.

Chavez said earlier the PNCC asked for a VAT exemption but the Bureau of Internal Revenue had turned down the request.

METROBRIEFS

1 dead in SLEx car accident

AN EARLY morning accident on South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) in Muntinlupa City yesterday claimed a life and left one injured. At 5:57 a.m., a 10-wheeler truck with plate number PRC-458 bound for Manila skidded and hit a concrete barrier at the SLEx and then smashed into a Honda CRV (XNH-508) headed to Alabang, Muntinlupa City, said Manny Prades of the Philippine National Construction Corporation. The accident happened in front of the Amkor Anam, an electronics company, about 700 meters from the Sucat Interchange, Prades told the INQUIRER. The car's driver, Eduardo Castillo, 55, died immediately, while his passenger, Capt. Victor Mamon, a retired pilot, suffered minor injuries. The truck driver, Ronnie Deo and his two helpers were not hurt. "The driver was apparently in a rush because of the 6 a.m. truck ban," Prades said. Deo might have lost control of the wheel since the road was still slippery because of rains since Thursday, he added. The truck driver, however, told police that he tried to avoid a car and suddenly lost control, said P03 Arthur Cortez of the Traffic Management Group in Bicutan, Taguig City. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Fishermen vow new 'blockade'

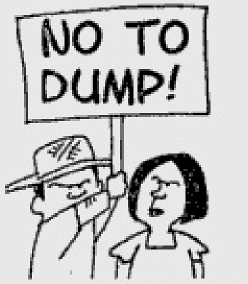


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

A FISHERS group vowed to block what it called a "looming immoral deal" between the Navotas local government and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) that would allow the dumping of Metro Manila garbage in the town's Controlled Disposal Facility in Tanza. "We cannot allow a deal that is immoral and grossly inimical to the collective interest of the fisherfolk and ordinary people of Obando," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap in a press statement. Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco the other day offered the use of the disposal facility to the MMDA as an alternative after Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo banned the agency from using the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility. Cuerpo decided to stop accepting garbage from Metro Manila after the MMDA allegedly failed to settle P183 million in unpaid fees to the municipality of Rodriguez and the private operator. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Water rate hike in 2006

CUSTOMERS of the Manila Water Company Inc. (MWCI) will have a reprieve from the value added tax (VAT) next month as the Ayala Group-owned company would impose the new rate in January 2006. The tariff increase would be an average of P5 to P6 more in the total water bill of a household with at least 30 cubic meters in monthly consumption, according to MWCI director for regulatory affairs Virgilio Rivera Jr. In the west zone, customers of the Maynilad Water Services Inc. will pay an average P10 to P11 per month for their monthly water consumption. The increase will immediately take effect as soon as the implementing rules and regulations of the approved tax measure has been published in newspapers of major circulation in the next two weeks, according to MWSS Chief Regulator Eduardo C. Santos in an interview. "Since this is a change in the law, the impact on the rates is automatic and no prior request and corresponding approval is needed from us," he told the INQUIRER. Rivera had said in the past that this may not be the only adjustment as the VAT also magnified the company's operating costs. Manila Water supplies water and sewerage services to Manila's east zone: parts of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Mandalaluyong, Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, Taguig Pateros and a portion of Rizal province. Maynilad's service area covers all of Manila except San Andres and Sta. Ana, parts of Quezon City, parts of Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Cavite City and some towns of Cavite province. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Free funeral services

MANILA government officials recently signed an agreement with one of the country's leading mortuaries to provide free funeral services to firefighters and policemen who die in the line of duty. In the agreement, La Funeraria Paz Inc. would offer a special memorial service package to at least 10 members each of the Manila Police District and Fire Department every year. Security development officers of the city's 897 barangay who die while on official duty are also included among the beneficiaries of the funeral package. Mayor Lito Atienza said the agreement was part of the local government's "genuine commitment to policemen and firemen and to assist their families during unfortunate events." *Tina G. Santos*

HAPPY HALLOWEEN
HA
TRICK OR TR

TRICK OR TREAT
Children of Philippine Daily Inquirer employees in Halloween costumes before making a round of the PDI offices as part of the company's Trick of Treat activities yesterday.
RUDY ESPERAS

Fresnedi beats graft charges

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE OMBUDSMAN HAS CLEARED MUNtinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi and 14 other local government officials of graft charges.

The complaints were filed by Joint Venture of Ayesel Construction and Development Corpor., Royalty Alabang Foods Inc. and Monarch Alabang Foods Inc. that managed a jeepney terminal in Alabang.

The company rented from the local government a 10,293-sq. m. lot on the Alabang-Zapote Road for a jeepney terminal and food court in March 2001.

In its complaint, the company alleged breach of contract saying Muntinlupa failed to transfer all the jeepneys from the old city terminal.

The city reportedly was unable to stop the operation of illegal jeepney terminals, allegedly even giving "special treatment" and "preferential" terminal fee rates to a rival transport group, Albicarrosa.

The rival group was also allowed to occupy a lot adjacent to the complainant's terminal despite opposition.

Moreno Generoso, graft investigation and prosecution officer 1, ordered the dismissal of the case saying there was no probable cause against the respondents.

The decision was approved by Victor Fernandez, deputy Ombudsman for Luzon.

The company filed the administrative complaint after the city government canceled its contract for failure to pay its monthly rent, said City Hall.

Two weeks ago, Judge Emma Young of the Muntinlupa City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 80 ordered the company to vacate the terminal at Barangay Alabang and pay the local government its debt of roughly P6.4 million.

"The dismissal further strengthens the city government's position to reclaim the terminal," said the Muntinlupa City government yesterday.

Police kill 2 suspected car thieves

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO SUSPECTED CAR THIEVES were killed in a shootout in Mandaluyong City shortly after midnight yesterday, barely an hour after carjacking an Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV) in Quezon City.

One of the suspects was identified through his driver's license as Jeremy Estanislao, 24, of No. 20 Barrio Sto. Niño, Pasay City.

The other suspect remained unidentified.

Initial investigation conducted by PO2 Edmundo Favela and PO2 Ronald Jacuba showed that Christopher Custodio of No. 13 Admirable Lane, Sunville Subdivision, Quezon City, was driving his orange Isuzu Crosswind (ZAP-935) on Congressional Avenue around 1:15 a.m. when the suspects on board a motorcycle and a white Toyota Revo blocked his path.

Wearing black T-shirts and jackets with police markings, the suspects told Custodio his car was stolen and "arrested" him.

Blindfolded and tied with duct tape, Custodio was left in Toro Hills, Project 8, Quezon City until he was freed by bystanders.

The Philippine National Police-Traffic Management Group's Task Force Limbas caught up with the suspects at the Pioneer-Boni Avenue tunnel around 1:50 a.m. and engaged the pair in a shootout.

Traffic rerouted for cemetery-bound motorists

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MOTORISTS HEADED TO MAJOR cemeteries in Parañaque City and Manila will have to use rerouting schemes implemented in these areas starting Oct. 31 until Nov. 2.

Private motorists plying Dr. A Santos Avenue (Sucat Road) from Baclaran area could enter BF Homes through El Grande Avenue, left to Aguirre Avenue then left to President Avenue then to Sucat Road again to enter Manila Memorial Park (MMP) and Loyola Memorial Park (LMP). The usual traffic flow along the westbound lane of Sucat Road or from the Sucat Interchange would be maintained.

However, tangerine cone-shaped barriers or "alienators," would be installed to separate the westbound road into four lanes so as not to hamper the traffic flow. The "alienators" will run five hundred meters from the entrances of the two cemeteries. Signs would be posted in several locations to guide motorists, traffic police said.

On the other hand, the eastbound lane of Sucat Road, from the corner of Sanchez Avenue will also be a traffic controlled area. "Alienators" will also divide the road into four lanes. The first lane from the left of the eastbound road will be used by motorists bound for LMP or Sucat Interchange, while the remaining two lanes are intended for MMP-bound motorists.

Motorists could use the Teoville area as an alternative route to enter and exit MMP on these hours: 6 a.m. to 12 noon only for incoming vehicles only and 12 noon to 6 p.m. for outgoing vehicles.

Meanwhile, traffic will remain unchanged for motorists coming from Las Piñas City through BF Homes towards MMP. Vehicles bound for Sucat Interchange or LMP, however, must turn right of President Avenue to Jackie Lou Ville, then exit to Ireneville near the Park and Shop Department Store.

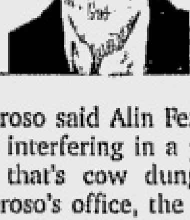
Manila will also impose a traffic rerouting scheme, particularly in the vicinity of the North Cemetery, Chinese Cemetery and La Loma Cemetery, starting Monday until Nov. 2, according to City Hall officials.

Starting at 6 a.m. on Oct. 31 until 6 a.m. of Nov. 2, Aurora Boulevard from Rizal Avenue up to Makiling St. and peripheral roads shall be closed. Retiro St. from Aurora Ave. up to Blumentritt, Dimasalang St. from Calle Tiago to Blumentritt, and Maceda St. from Retiro St. to Makiling St., shall also be closed to traffic within the same period.

All vehicles coming from the north going to Pier North shall take the C-3 Road towards Jose Abad Santos Avenue or Road 10. Vehicles coming from Quezon City going to Pier South shall take D. Tuazon St. or Mayon St. towards España St./A.H. Lacson Avenue (formerly Gov. Forbes Ave.) or to Quiapo as alternate routes. Side streets have been designated as parking areas.

Hagedorn, Sanchez bury hatchet

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

THE WARLORDS OF PALAWAN AND Batangas, who challenged each other to a fight to the death, buried the hatchet yesterday in a neutral place, Makati City.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez smoked the peace pipe in a meeting at a condominium unit on De la Costa Street, in the country's premier city.

Present during the meeting were Public Works Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Sanchez's province mate; Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation; and retired police Senior Supt. Wally Sombero, Hagedorn and Sanchez's mutual friend.

A source who was also at the meeting said the two apologized to each other for the bad words they uttered against one another. Hagedorn, according to the source, apologized to the governor first for challenging him to a duel. Sanchez apologized to the mayor for calling him a "mad dog." **Children, had you pushed through with the duel your enemies would have been jumping for joy over your dead bodies!**

* * *

"I never lie because I'm a member of the Iglesia ni Cristo," said Supt. Jerry Valeroso, in justifying the arrest of an "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" television crew.

Valeroso said Alin Ferrer, my reporter, was interfering in a police function. I say that's cow dung! Alin went to Valeroso's office, the anti-illegal drugs office, to check on a complaint that one of his men "planted" drugs on two innocent men. Alin found the complaint to be true. Valeroso dragged the name of the influential religious sect to a case involving a heinous crime. Planting drugs on innocent citizens is punishable by death under a new law.

* * *

Two Saturdays ago, we exposed the practice of a department head at the government-run East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) who allegedly charged charity patients. That item was written to prompt Dr. Roland Cortez, EAMC chief, to act on the report. But up to now, he hasn't sanctioned the department head, a female doctor.

Is Cortez afraid of the department head because she happens to be the wife of a former undersecretary of the Department of Health?

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HORSE RACING: 2005 Breeders Cup; tomorrow at 1 a.m.; Sports Plus – The finest thoroughbreds compete at Belmont Park.

FOOTBALL: EPL – Middlesbrough vs Manchester United; midnight; ESPN – Catch the best in English football.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gorres fights Thai tonight /A21
- Fierce rivals clash in PBL Heroes Cup /A26

La Salle under siege, vows wider probe

By Jasmine W. Payo

AFTER BEING CRITICIZED FOR the partial report of its fact-finding committee, De La Salle University yesterday vowed a deeper and thorough probe on the eligibility scandal involving two Green Archers.

"The school officials are hurt over insinuations that they have not done enough or that there's a whitewash," an alumnus privy to the ongoing La Salle investigation said yesterday. "But there are no sacred cows in this case."

"The committee is not limiting the scope of the investigation to (Manny) Salgado and (Raul) Lacson," the unimpeachable source added. "If new verifiable information will be obtained, it will be acted upon. If there are more things that will come out or will be provided, the committee will definitely pursue it."

The university implicated Salgado and Lacson as the team officials who helped secure the fake eligibility documents of players Mark Lester Benitez and Timoteo Gatchalian III.

Both Salgado and Lacson denied the allegations reported in the "initial findings" of the four-man committee.

La Salle officials announced they would not comment on the case for the meantime after revealing the committee's report in a press conference last Wednesday.

"There is a procedure the school officials and the committee have to follow," added the source. "As of now, they've only acted on the information that is verifiable."

Rumors even spread yesterday that La Salle had fired coach Franz Pumaren. Team officials, however, readily denied the report.

"The committee did what they're supposed to do, given the information they had," the source said. "Right now, they are only acting on the basis of information that is verifiable."

The source added La Salle officials haven't set a resumption date of the investigation even as several UAAP board members expressed dissatisfaction on La Salle's initial findings.

"We hope they would come up with more discoveries," said Anton Montinola, Far Eastern University's representative to the board. "There are deeper issues they should be looking into. For example, falsification of a public document is a crime. I wonder what they'll do about that."

"The UAAP board cannot base its decision on partial conclusions," added Montinola. "The board may also seek further clarification on items that may not be clear (in the La Salle report)."

Red Bull shames Sta. Lucia by 17

Red bull's Lordy Tugade(left) and Sta. Lucia's Nelbert Omolon fight for ball possesion. PDI PHOTO/RYAN LIM

GAME TODAY (Roxas City)
4:30 p.m..—San Miguel vs Air21

By June Navarro

LEON WHITE WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE TYPE of import Sta. Lucia needed to earn a living.

Red Bull Barako rubbed this in with a 95-78 win last night, thereby sending the Realtors to their third straight defeat in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Quemont Greer came up with 28 points and 15 rebounds as the Barakos unleashed another balanced offensive for their third straight win.

"We're rebounding and spreading up the scoring," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao after the Barakos notched their fourth victory in six games.

"Prior to this streak, the team's mentality was to put the scoring load on Greer. We change that by letting the locals do their share," Guiao added.

Except for Warren Ybanez and Junthy Valenzuela, all the men fielded in by Guiao chipped in with Lordy Tugade turning in 17 and rookie Leo Najorda accounting for 12 points.

Mick Pennisi and Rico Villanueva had six points each but, on top of that, they combined for 24 boards for the Barakos.

With the brawny 6-foot-5 White, the Realtors fell to 2-4. They had won two of three games before replacing the high-scoring Luke Whitehead three weeks ago.

To check their skid, the Realtors brought in Omar Wavber, a sweet-shooting wingman who played for Riverside Community College in the US.

The scores

RED BULL 95—Greer 28, Tugade 17, Najorda 12, Robinson 9, Bagulo 8, Villanueva 6, Pennisi 6, Cruz 5, Fonacier 2, Bugia 2, Ybanez 0, Valenzuela 0.

STA. LUCIA 78—White 16, Cabagnot 15, Tolomia 15, Espino 15, Omolon 4, Aquino 4, Duremdes 3, Catli 2, Sta. Maria 2, Gonzales 2, Cuan 0, Calimag 0, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 20-14, 47-34, 65-57, 95-78.

Refused by Fiba, POC takes desperation shot

By Musong R. Castillo

BASKETBALL COULD BE HELD anytime between Nov. 27 and Dec. 5, but with a gold medal that might not count in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

After getting thumbed down by the international basketball federation (Fiba), the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday created a six-man group to handle cage competitions at the same time as the Games, if just to appease the public.

Six months after the basketball brouhaha broke out, the Fiba on Thursday ruled with finality that it will not sanction cage competition in the SEA Games even after repeated pleas from the POC.

The POC has tapped sec-gen Steve Hontiveros, Joey Romasanta, Go Teng Kok, Philippine Basketball Federation president Moying Martelino and wushu president Julian Camacho to comprise the group which will be headed by POC chairman Robert Aventajado.

This group will now lobby to be able to hold a basketball event during the Games, the last alternative the POC is trying after it got a negative response from Fiba, by going to the SEAG Federation Council.

"It pains us much that the outcome so far can only be negative," Fiba sec-gen Patrick Baumann said in an e-mail to Aventajado on Thursday.

In a radio interview yesterday, Aventajado said that the POC will talk to the SEAG council to hold basketball as part of the biennial meet.

"In this particular instance, *mas kakausapin na muna namin itong* council *kesa sa* Fiba (we will talk to the SEAG council more than the Fiba)," Aventajado said in the radio program.

The SEAG Federation Council is being chaired by POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the Philippines being the host country, and it could include basketball in the coming Games if it chooses to, but without the recognition of the Fiba.

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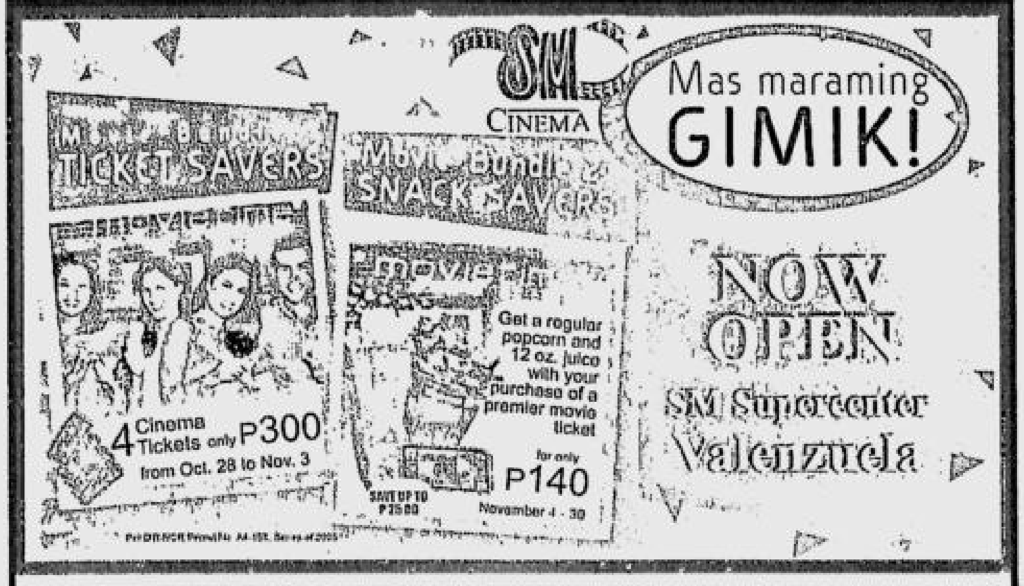

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06:05LFS/06:35LMF/08:15END
DOOM
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:15FS/12:45MF/03:30/06:15
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:15END

MEGAMALL
1 DOOM
10:30FS/10:50MF/01:05/03:20/5:35/07:50
09:35LFS/10:00LMF/11:45END

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1 THE KING & I
Stage Play
2 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10:50FS/11:10MF/01:45/04:20/06:55
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:40END

MANILA
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10:45FS/11:00MF/01:40/04:20/07:00
09:20LFS/09:40LMF/12:00END

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11 ISPIRITISTA
12 MY SASSY GIRL

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3 DOOM
4 DUBAI
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6 DEUCE BIGALOW
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8 LORD OF WAR
9 LAND OF THE DEAD
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

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3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 DOOM

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2 DOOM
3 ISPIRITISTA
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9 DUBAI
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
11 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
12 ISPIRITISTA

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2 DUBAI
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 DEUCE BIGALOW
8 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 LORD OF WAR

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3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM

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2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ISPIRITISTA
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5 RESERVED
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7 DOOM
8 DEUCE BIGALOW

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2 DOOM
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DEUCE BIGALOW
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 MY SASSY GIRL
11 LORD OF WAR
12 DUBAI

SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
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2 DOOM
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3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LORD OF WAR
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 DUBAI

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2 CROW 4
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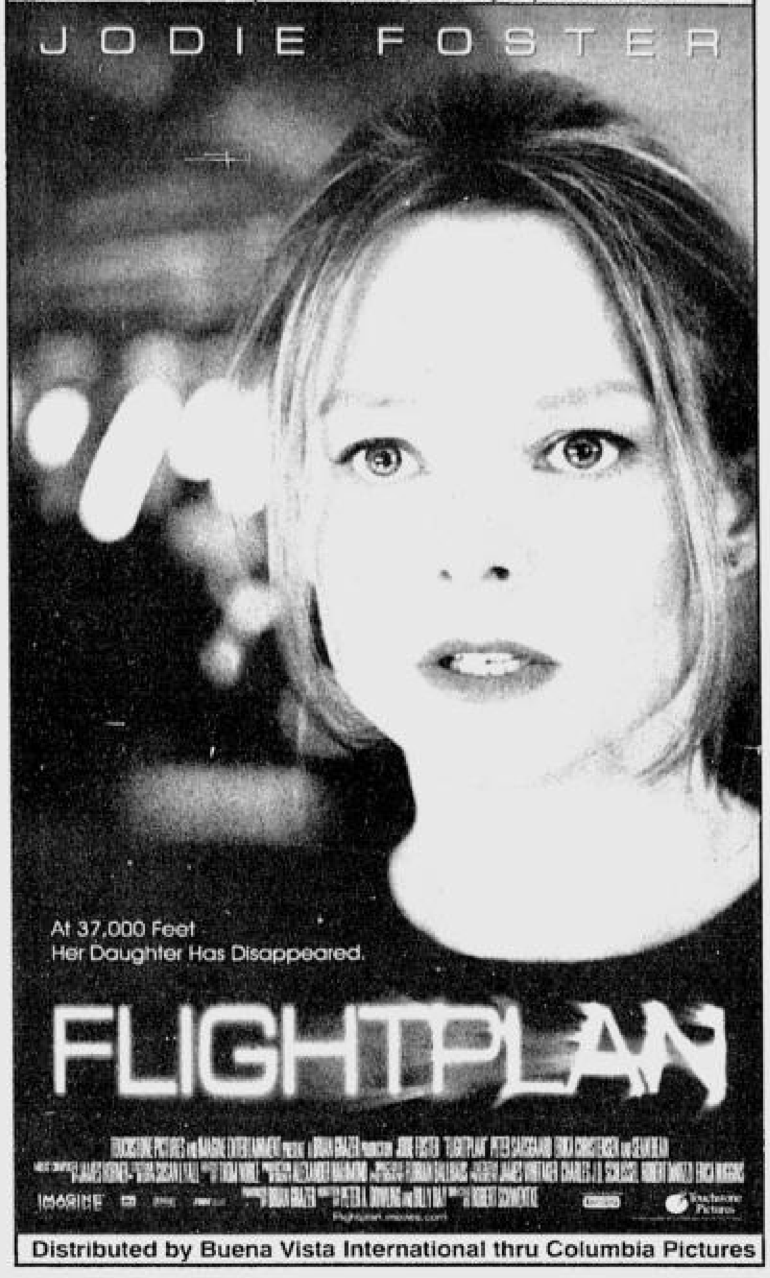

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DOOM R13 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15	THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:00,2:25,4.50,7:15,9:40	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50

RP golfers raise lead; Juvic slips

HONG KONG—RP TEAM A CAME THROUGH with a solid 134 to pull away from the pack, but Juvic Pagunsan dropped to second in individual play despite a 66 in the third round of the Hong Kong Amateur Golf Open Championships at the Hong Kong Golf Club's Old Course here yesterday.

Michael Bibat got into the scoring act for the team as he carded a 3-under par 68, taking over from Tonton Asistio, who fumbled with a 73.

Counting Pagunsan's 66, RP Team A zeroed in on a second straight team championship with a 399, eight strokes ahead of Singapore, which had a 407 after a 135.

Pagunsan lost the individual lead as Thai Kwachai Tannin exploded with the day's best score of 7-under 64 to wrest the lead with a 197,one-shot up on Pagunsan, who had a 198.

Jonathan Leong of Singapore stood at 202 after a 65 while Sri Lanka's Mithun Perera carded a 70 for a 204.

Asistio limped home with a 73, virtually bowing out of the individual race with a 206.

RP Team B struggled with a 147 on Jay Bayron's 71 and either the 76 from Gene Bondoc and Marvin Dumandan. RP Team B dropped to sixth place with a 421, behind Thailand A (411) and China A (411), and Thailand B (420).

La Salle riding on scapegoats?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I FOUND IT ODD THAT ABS-CBN REPORTER Anne Lou Yosuico had to describe last Wednesday's press conference at the Harana Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency exciting when all the other scribes I talked to claimed De la Salle U's announcement of two names behind the ineligibility issue was anything but hot.

"It was exciting Ms Beth, because one of the DLSU alumni who attended the presscon created a scene. He lashed out at the hosts while asking many questions, and accused them of making Manny Salgado and Raul Lacson scapegoats. It came to a point where he had to be escorted out by a couple of DLSU ushers," related Anne Lou.

The alumnus was identified as Serviliano de la Cruz, a golden jubiliarian who was in the batch of Sen. Jun Magsaysay.

"Mr. Serviliano said his batch was planning to donate P1.5 million to the school, but they don't like what's currently happening," the reporter said.

Anne Lou and her crew followed De la Cruz all the way down to his car, a Starex, where his driver was waiting. The ushers made sure he was leaving the premises.

"He was really upset. His eyes were bloodshot, I was afraid he might have an attack," she said.

***

A Mapua alumnus who's now in media called the other day to ask if I knew where and how Ateneo cager Japeth Aguilar graduated from high school.

"He simply vanished into thin air. The next thing we knew, he was sitting on the Ateneo Blue Eagles bench at the opening of the 2004 UAAP season, dressed in a Blue Eagles jersey. We had no idea how he got there. Did he also get the PEP test like two of his Green Archers counterpart in lieu of a high school diploma? I'd like to know, because Ateneo's Ricky Palou (Varsity Sports Director) is always bragging about how strict his school is on incoming student cagers," related our complainant whom we shall call G.N.

"Assuming, as he claims, *hindi sila gumagawa ng ganun*, guilty *naman sila of* pirating players."

***

Although someone else was holding his current position at that time, Ricky Palou told us exactly what happened after Japeth left Mapua in 2003.

"Fearful that he might not be able to pass the Ateneo entrance exam, Japeth was enrolled by his recruiters at the Reedley International School in Pasig where he was heavily tutored in Math and English, the pitfall of most Ateneo aspirants."

"*Marami kasing bumabagsak sa dalawang subjects na ito*, so we gave Japeth a huge dose of tutoring in these two areas. Even Magnum Membrere and L.A. Tenorio, both San Beda graduates, had difficulty with Math and English. You know what? To our suprise, he passed the entrance exam on his first try," Ricky said.

***

Except for the deportation order on BAP secretary general Graham Lim, all has been very quiet on the RP basketball front, you could hear a fish burp.

Unknown to most of us, though, BAP president Joey Lina has been trying to move heaven and earth to get the FIBA ban on the Philippines lifted.

He has written a heart-rending letter to FIBA secgen Patrick Baumann imploring for his kindness and mercy, but I heard that the latter has stood firm. Again, Baumann told Joey that the only way to get the ban lifted is for the BAP to get reinstated in the POC.

Meanwhile, word has it that the senate committee on games, amusement and sports is about to release its report on the inquiry it conducted on the BAP-POC controversy over a month ago.

Incidentally, we also got a report that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo openly expressed his displeasure when told that the Philippines would not be able to defend its basketball crown in the SEAG. Our source said this was within the hearing range of only a handful of people.

Gorres fights Thai tonight in OPBF elimination bout

GORRES

By Salven L. Lagumbay

CEBU'S Z "THE DREAM" GORRES goes into action tonight as he faces the slippery Wisanu Pornobnum in a 10-round Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation eliminator at the Mandaue Cultural and Sports Complex.

Co-headlining tonight's stellar card is the RP bantamweight tussle between reigning champion Michael Domingo and top-ranked Rolly Lunas, the former Pan-Asia Boxing Association flyweight boss.

The Gorres-Pornobnum victor gets the chance to vie for the OPBF 115-lb crown next year against Thai Waengpetch Chuwatana, who is challenging champion Masayuki Arinaga on Nov. 3. Arinaga would reportedly relinquish the title if he wins over Chuwatana.

Gorres (21-1-1, 11 KOs) weighed in at 116 lb, while Pornobnum (16-5-1, 3 KOs), who earlier vowed to KO Gorres inside five rounds, came in at 115.5 lb during the official weigh-in yesterday at the ALA Gym in Cebu.

RP bantamweight king Michael Domingo will be defending his title for the first time against Lunas, the top contender who sports a 25-14-3 win-loss-draw record. Domingo wrested the title from Joel Bauya last July.

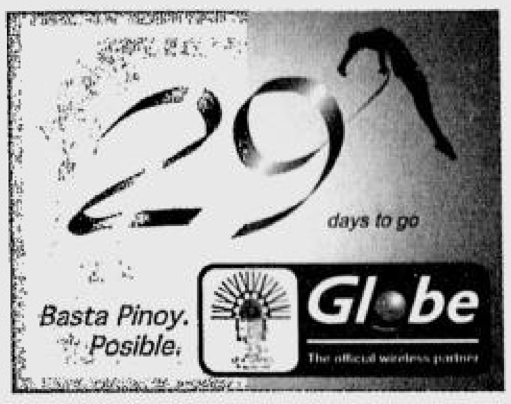
The card, sponsored by Tanduay, the No. 1 Rhum, Cebu Grand Hotel and Republic Chemicals Inc., will be covered by VIVA Sports and televised through Main Event on RPN 9 tomorrow from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Ambassadors go on mall tour

THE SPORTS CENTRAL-BACKED mall tour of the country's 12 sports ambassadors to promote the 23rd Southeast Asian Games resumes on Nov. 3-6 at the SM South Mall in Las Piñas.

With the country's largest sports apparel distributor leading the way, the first in a series of mall campaigns began last week at SM Manila with equestrian queen Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, basketball great Allan Caidic, shooting star Nathaniel 'Tac' Padilla and former swimming sensation Akiko Thompson in attendance.

As part of their campaign, the SEA Games ambassadors are conducting tours around the different branches of SM malls in their effort to create public awareness of the biennial meet set Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.



J.B.'s job

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

FROM THE HARDCOURT TO HARDBALL POLITICS and back.

That's J.B. Yango's imaginary road map.

J.B. Yango, ex-Philippine Basketball Association star, college great, national team standout, and currently a politician.

As provincial board member of Nueva Ecija, J.B., 46, will be termed out in two and a half years.

He often wonders—will there be a windfall of sports jobs when he's done with public service? Or will there be more tales of faded glory to tell.

J.B. dares not reveal what's on his mind to the boss—Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III. He'd surely hear an earful from Tommy about commitment to the Novo Ecijanos who voted for an erstwhile cage heartthrob to fix their problems and act as their voice in Palayan City up to 2007.

It's just that in his final fling with the pressures and pleasures of politics, J.B. marvels at the dexterity of Yeng Guiao, a fellow sportsman turned pol, to juggle two jobs. Pampanga Vice Gov. Guiao is also coach of the PBA Red Bull Barako, in plain sight of Republic Act 6713.

J.B. is also left in awe of cage contemporaries now holding key basketball jobs. Ely Capacio, PBA board chair; Chito Loyzaga, Philippine Basketball League chair; Hector Calma, Coca-Cola team manager; Frankie Lim, Talk 'N Text manager; Joel Banal, former Ateneo mentor and now Talk 'N Text coach, to name a few.

Well, if J.B. can serve two masters, then…

Hurt by a bum knee and rumors of point-shaving he vigorously denies even to this day, Jose Bernardo Yango was done as a PBA star at the ripe old age of 30. But not until his eight-year pro basketball career mostly with Tanduay produced real accomplishments, including MVP for the Reinforced Conference in 1986 and a sure Mythical Five selection the same year if not for a string of injuries.

J.B.'s college and amateur years are also the stuff of legend—lead Lion of San Beda's 1978-79 NCAA championship teams, player for the fabled YCO club and several national teams. A year before turning pro in 1982, he was named amateur basketball player of the year by the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Until his trip to the big time, his biggest stage had been the cement courts of his native Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. Among his early mentors were his basketball-playing uncles, cousins and their neighbor, now Air Force Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon Jr.

His sports upbringing in Cuyapo—where culture is cultivated and hell is raised, not necessarily in that order—would serve him well in his playing days. Cuyapo also baptized him with the fire of hardball politics, electing him councilor and serving as his base for a successful run for a provincial board seat.

Despite a seemingly flip-flopping mind about it, J.B. has the pedigree for public service. An uncle was the country's ambassador to the United Nations. Another uncle was a civil service commissioner. An aunt is the widow of Pete de Jesus, former Manila councilor and the first journalist from Cuyapo.

A return to the hardcourt from hardball politics.

That's only in JB's dreams for now.

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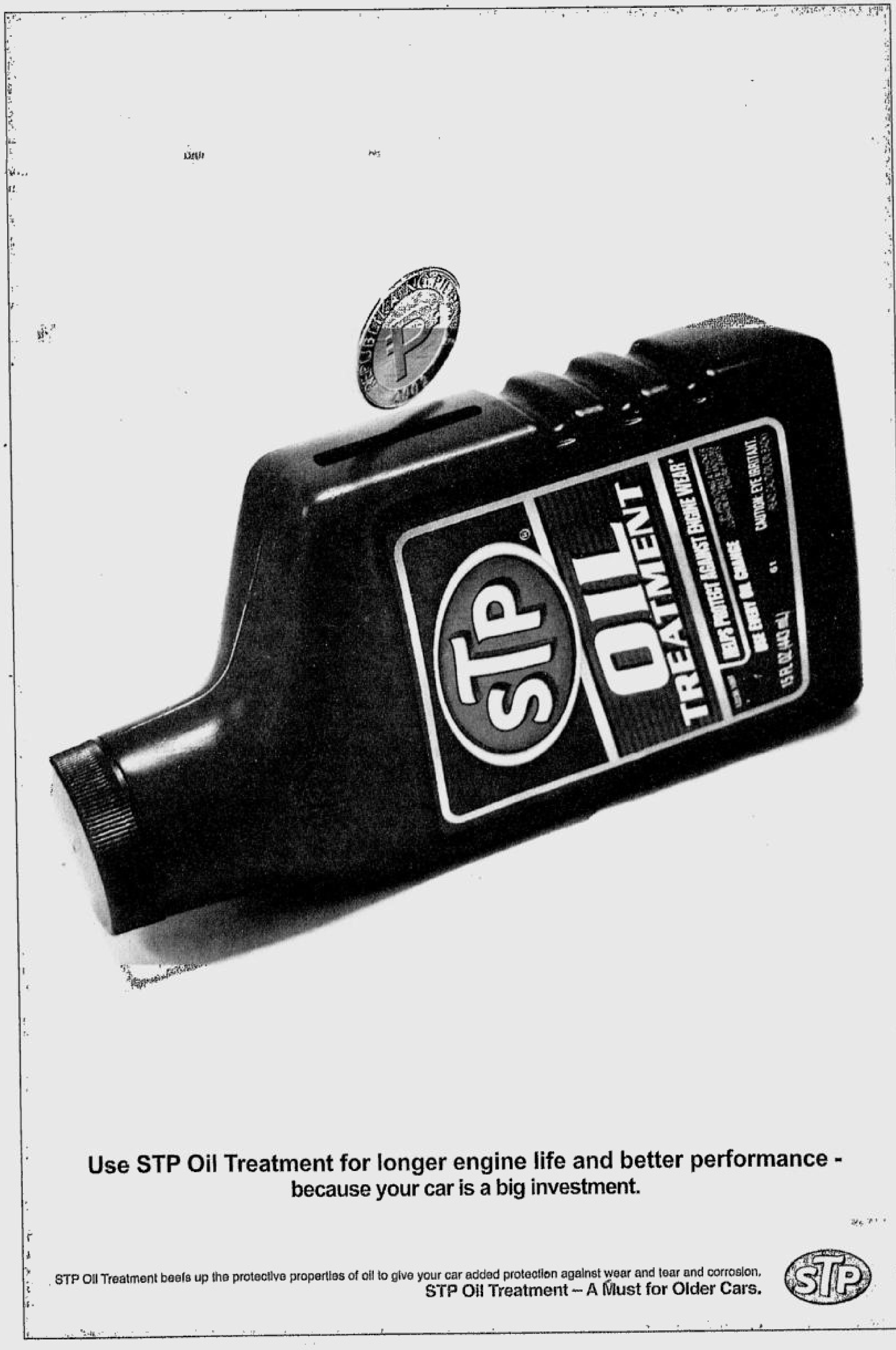

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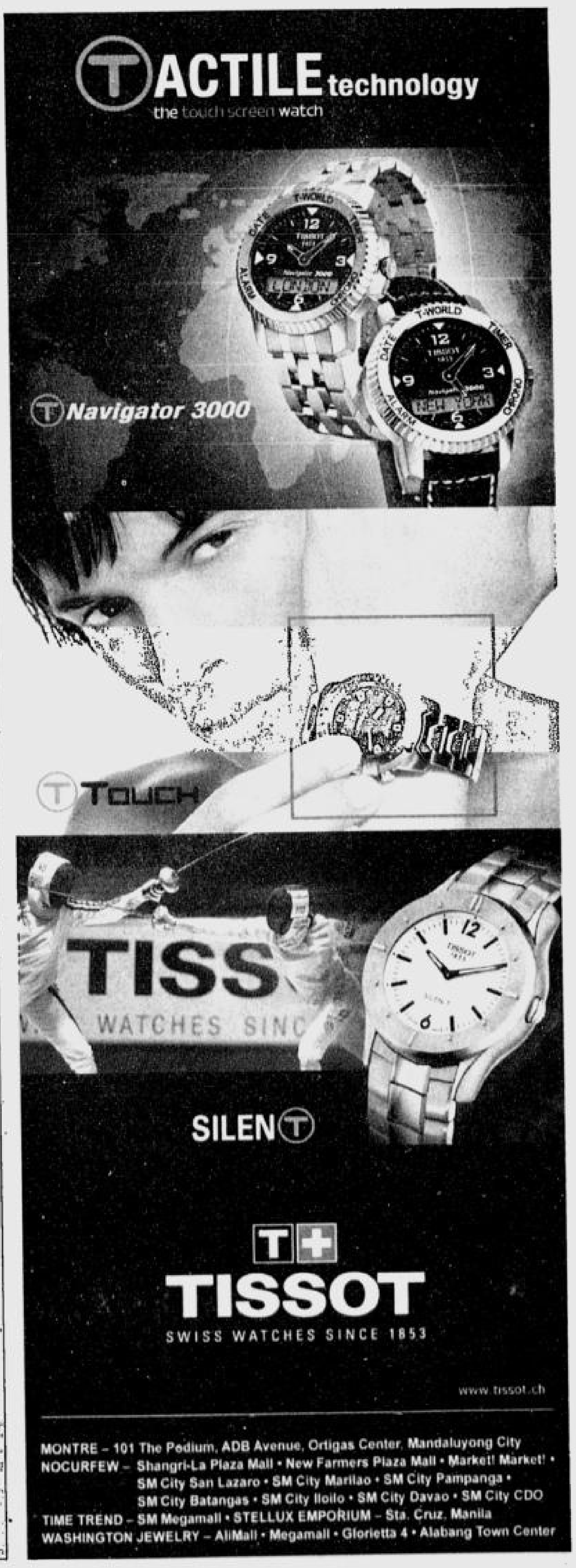

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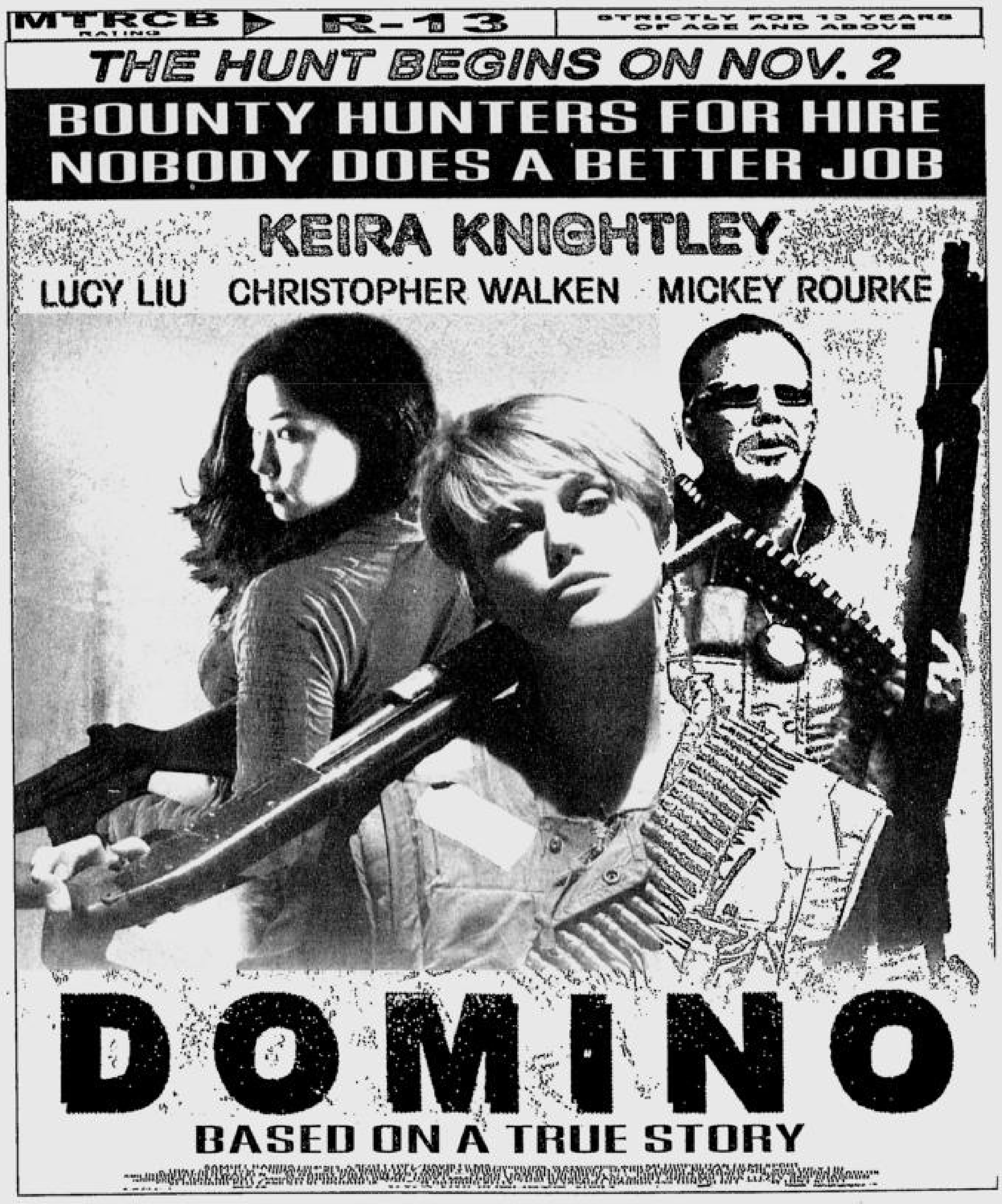
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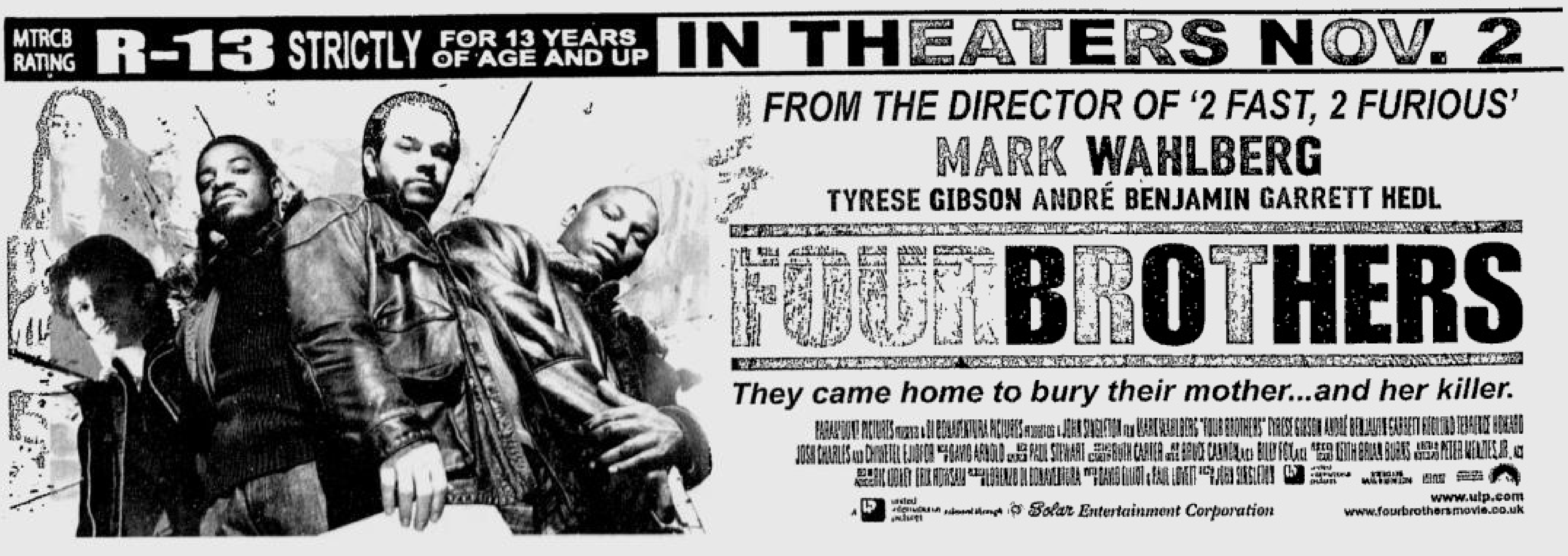
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Monty leads Merit chase, paces Volvo

SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN—COLIN MONTGOMERIE shot a 4-under 67 Thursday to share the first-round lead in the Volvo Masters and edge ahead of Michael Campbell in the Order of Merit battle.

Montgomerie holed a 111-yard wedge shot for an eagle two at the eighth and birdied the last hole to draw level with defending champion Ian Poulter over the 6,952-yard Valderrama course.

"It's always lucky," Montgomerie said. "It was a wedge of 111 yards. I hit it 112 (yards) and it backed into the hole. You intend to hole it but it's always lucky when it comes off."

Campbell, the US Open champion, recorded a 1-over 72 to be in 23rd place in the 55-man field.

Montgomerie, aiming for his eighth career Merit title and his first since 1999, leads Campbell by some euro150,000 ($182,000).

Luke Donald, Jose Maria Olazabal and Sergio Garcia shared third place after 68s. Poulter is trying to maintain his streak of winning one title every year since 2000. The English Ryder Cup player has not had a victory in 2005." *AP*

Brehaut up at Chrysler

TORONTO—AMERICAN Jeff Brehaut carded an opening round 6-under 65 at the Chrysler championship in Tampa Bay, Florida on Thursday to grab a two shot lead over five players led by world number four Retief Goosen. Brehaut, chasing his first career PGA Tour win, mixed an eagle and five birdies with a single bogey at the Westin Innisbrook Resort's Copperhead course, surging top the leaderboard ahead of 2003 champion Goosen and Americans Dean Wilson, Tom Lehman, Ben Crane and Charles Howell III. Goosen, attempting to bounce back from a nagging groin injury, opened his round in style with an eagle on the first. *Reuters*

Hill to go under knife

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—Seven-time National Basketball Association All-Star Grant Hill will undergo surgery for a sports hernia next week and will miss at least the first three weeks of the season, the Orlando Magic said Thursday. Hill was pulled out of the line-up of a preseason game on Oct. 19 due to a lower abdominal injury. He has since been diagnosed with the sports hernia, which is a pulled groin muscle that is liable to deteriorate over time and affect the abdominal wall. Hedo Turkoglu will replace Hill, who averaged 12.0 points in three preseason games, as the starter at small forward. Hill averaged 19.7 points, 4.7 assists and 3.3 steals with the Magic last season. *AFP*

Andy makes 2nd round

LYON—TOP SEED ANDY Roddick struggled in the first set before overpowering French qualifier Nicolas Mahut, 7-6, 6-3, in the second round of the Lyon Grand Prix on Thursday. In the quarter-finals, Roddick will face Mario Ancic of Croatia who defeated Swede Thomas Enqvist 7-6 6-7 6-4. Asked if he was still planning to play the Paris-Bercy Masters Series next week after Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Marat Safin and Andre Agassi withdrew pleading injuries or personal reasons, Roddick kept his options open. French teener Gael Monfils beat Gaston Gaudio of Argentina 6-4 6-3. *Reuters*

Murray lands in q'finals

BASEL, SWITZERLAND—British teenager Andy Murray has entered the quarterfinals of the Swiss Indoors, following up Wednesday's win over Tim Henman with a 6-4 2-6 6-4 victory over Czech Tomas Berdych. Top seed Guillermo Coria, No. 3 Juan Carlos Ferrero, No. 7 Jiri Novak and No. 8 Tommy Haas all made early exits on Thursday. *Reuters*

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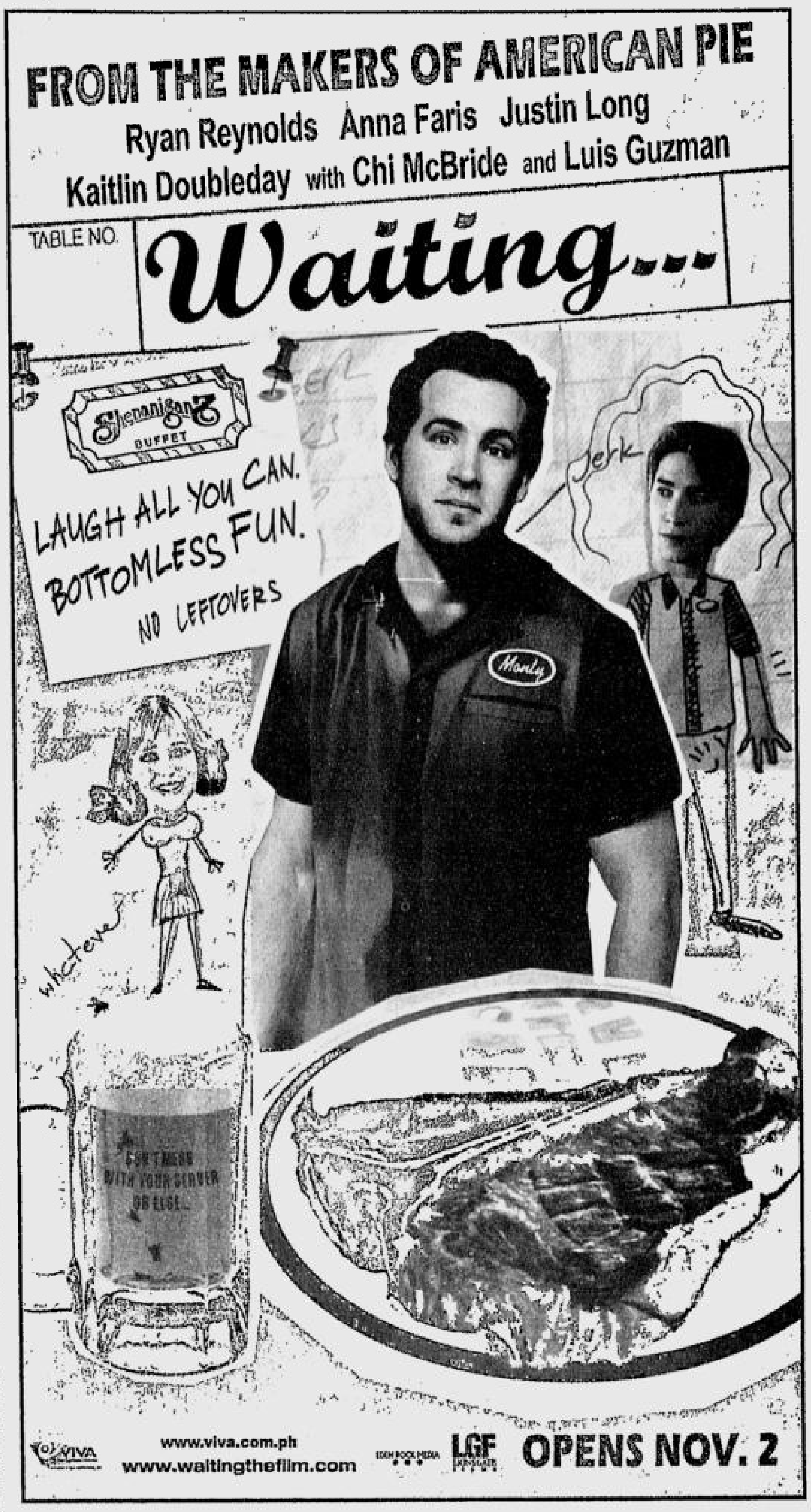
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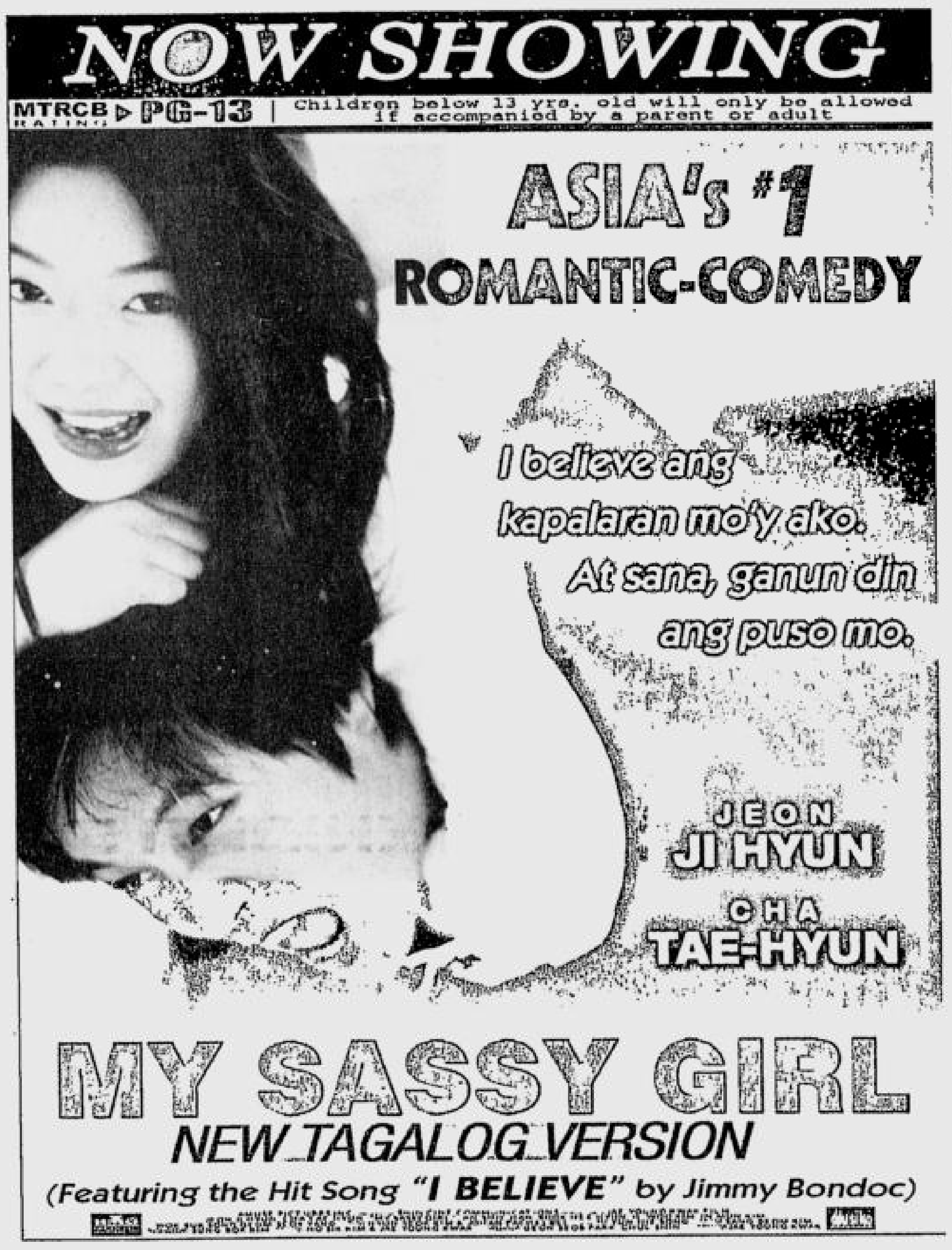
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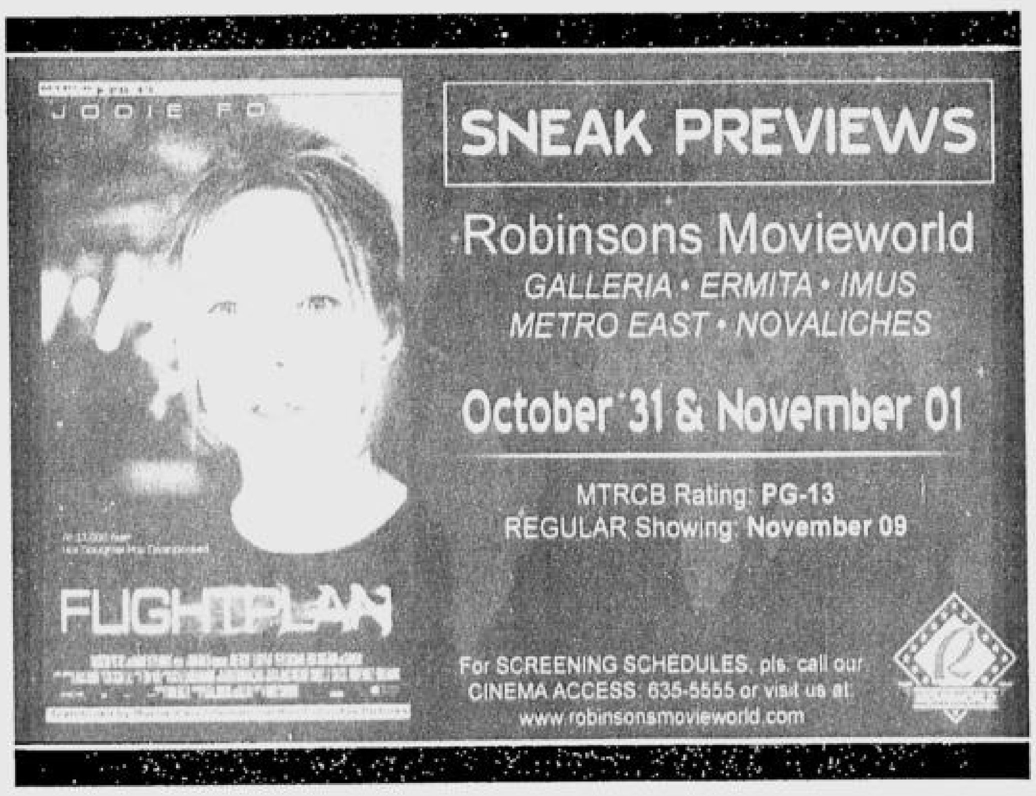
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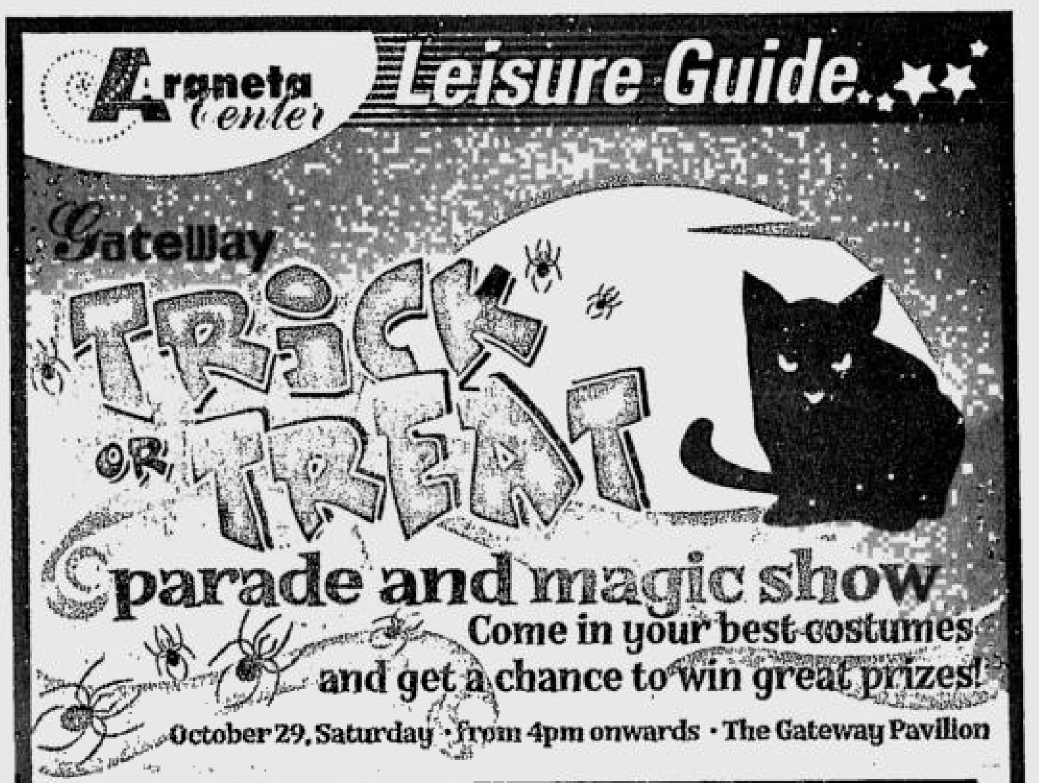
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THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:20 / 2:20 / 4:05 / 5:05 / 6:50 / 7:50 / 9:35	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00
ISPIRITISTA 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	DOOM 2:15 / 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30
MY SASSY GIRL 12:20 / 3:20 / 6:20 / 9:20	LORD OF WAR 6:50 / 9:30
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:40 / 2:40 / 4:40	THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ ISPIRITISTA 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	❹ MY SASSY GIRL 12:05 R2 / 2:45 / 5:45 / 8:45
❷ THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 R2 / 2:40 / 5:40 / 8:40	❺ LORD OF WAR 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
❸ DOOM 12:45 / 3:10 / 5:35 / 8:00	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

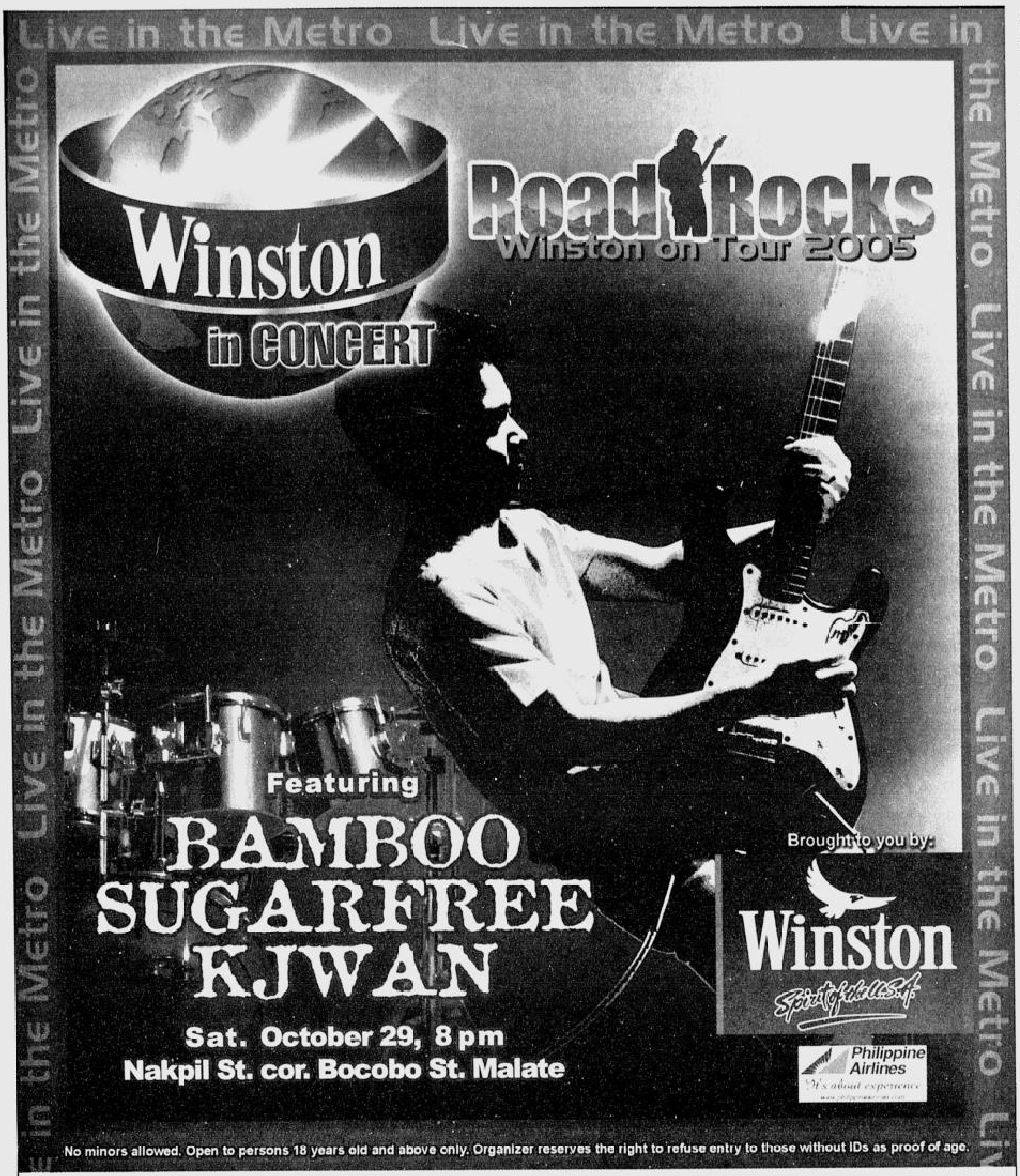
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Oct 30 Sunday	GINEBRA vs STA LUCIA 4:10 pm PUREFOODS vs TALK N TEXT 6:40 pm	Nov. 6 Sunday	GINEBRA vs AIR 21 4:10 pm ALASKA vs TALK N TEXT 6:40 pm

CENTER EVENTS

PROMOS	*Araneta Center Food Festival Pick-A-Prize Promo ongoing until November 12. Get a chance to win instant prizes with every P500 purchase at selected Araneta Center dining establishments*
EVENTS	*Trick-or-Treat Parade & Magic Show starting 4pm at The Gateway Pavilion. Kids who come in the best costumes get a chance to win great prizes!*

LOG ON TO: www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATE



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Manileños pull away

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GOLD RUSH!

It flowed mostly from the swimming pool for Manila yesterday as the host city struck 25 gold medals to pull away in the medal race of the Manila Youth Games national invitational at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Counting the six golds it won in athletics late Thursday, the host city now has 31 gold medals, 24 silvers and 14 bronzes with still plenty of events in medal-rich swimming and athletics today and taekwondo tomorrow.

A far second is Laguna Province, which got a big boost in swimming (eight golds) and athletics (three golds) to amass 14 golds, 6 silvers and four bronzes.

Three-day leader Muntinlupa hardly moved with just two golds to show in athletics and swimming yesterday for an 8-4-6 tally.

Kristian Libat, Apryl Herrera, Tessa Alcantara, Judith Cruz and Ingrid Ilustre snared two golds each for Manila which claimed 24 of the 46 gold medals disputed in the pool.

Libat took the 15-17 boys 400-meter freestyle and the 100m butterfly, Herrera ruled the girls 15-17 100m fly and the 400m free, Alcantara dominated the 15-17 girls 50m breaststroke and the 50m free, Cruz topped the girls 10-under 100m fly and the 50m free, while Ilustre won the girls 10-under 200m individual medley and 50m breasts.

Jorelle Vinluan, 12, sparked the pool assault with an easy victory in the girls 11-12 400m freestyle, where she clocked five minutes, 14.93 seconds.

In athletics, Laguna capturing three gold medals in sprints through Palarong Pambansa champion Jasmine Chavez (girls 15-17), Cecili Constantino (girls 13-15) and Angel Balatbat (girls 12-under).

Manila's Randolf Hernandez became the meet's first double gold medalist after topping the 13-15 boys shot put event with a throw of 13.11 meters. The Letran high schooler defeated Bohol's Christer John Juyad (12.05m) and fellow Manilan Francis Marlo Simeon (11.49m).

Munti, Tanauan grab semis slots

CO-LEADERS ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY and Tanauan City drew their respective matches in the seventh and final round of elimination phase to grab the two outright semifinal seats in the 2005 National Inter-Cities & Municipalities Chess Team Championship in Tagaytay City.

Defending champion Muntinlupa drew with Tagaytay "B" while Tanauan halved the point with Parañaque City to finish the elims with similar 5.5 points.

Muntinlupa gained top seeding with 19.5 to Tanauan's 17.5. Tagaytay "B" edged Parañaque in the count back, 18-16, to take third spot. Both toted 5.0 points.

Tagaytay "A" ripped Manila, 3-1, to advance to the quarterfinals.

Pasay City completed the quarterfinal cast after sweeping PNP-QC, 4-0.

Tagaytay "A" and Pasay shared fifth spot with 4.5 points, but the host had superior count back points, 17.5-16.5.

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	2 ISPIRITISTA	3 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 00, 4 50, 7 40, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUTHER / LEGEND OF ZORRO	5 ISPIRITISTA	6 LEGEND OF ZORRO	7 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 CINEMANILA For inquiries, call 750-4180 to 81		
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	3 LORD OF WAR 1 25, 3 45, 6 05, 8 25, 10 45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DOOM 2 10, 4 15 / LEGEND OF ZORRO 8 35, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN 1 50, 4 15, 6 40, 9 05, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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1:30 4:20 7:20 10:00
2 ISPIRITISTA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 MY SASSY GIRL
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
11:10 2:00 4:50 7:50 10:30
6 DOOM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 LORD OF WAR
12:20 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
8 MASAHISTA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:00 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:00
10 TRANSPORTER 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 638-7809 to 12

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
2 MY SASSY GIRL
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 LORD OF WAR
12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 10:00
4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 ISPIRITISTA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 DOOM
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00
7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 LORD OF WAR
1:40 4:10 6:35 9:00
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:55 3:35 6:15 9:00
3 ISPIRITISTA
10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05
4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00
5 DOOM
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00
7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05
8 MY SASSY GIRL
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

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2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DOOM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 LORD OF WAR
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

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2 INTO THE BLUE
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Fierce rivals clash in PBL Heroes Cup

COHESIVENESS PROMISES TO be a bigger asset for the Rain or Shine Elasto Painters following the departure of go-to guys Anthony Washington and Leo Najorda to the pros.

GAMES TODAY
(La Salle Greenhills Gym)
1 p.m.—Opening rites
2 p.m.—Magnolia vs Granny Goose
4 p.m.—Toyota vs Rain or Shine

"This season, we have to rely more on teamwork rather than individual talent," said coach Caloy Garcia as Rain or Shine kicks off its quest for a second straight PBL title against Toyota Otis in the Heroes Cup today at the La Salle Greenhills Gym.

Garcia, who steered Rain or Shine, formerly known as Welcoat Paints, to its first title in three years in the PBL Unity Cup last June, said they lost two key players but now have a more potent bench.

Magnolia Wizards and Granny Goose Tortillos, semifinalists in the last conference, battle at 2 p.m., right after the opening rites at 1 p.m. Admission is free.

Returning veterans Jojo Tangkay and Marvin Ortiguerra will lead the Elasto Painters campaign, along with key additions Yousif Aljamal and Jun Cabatu.

Aljamal played a key role for the disbanded Nenaco-San Beda last conference, while Cabatu is coming off a strong showing for La Salle in the UAAP.

But they'll be facing a pumped up Toyota Otis Knights, who will bring back the core of reigning NCAA champion Letran.

The Knights will also be parading their highly touted new recruit, Joe Calvin Devance, the No. 1 overall pick in the recent rookie draft.

Devance, a 6-foot-7 center-forward from Hawaii, has reportedly been a strong offensive force during the pre-season scrimmages.

Unlike the Knights, however, Magnolia and Granny Goose will still be turning to their old reliables.

The Wizards remain a title-favorite with Arwind Santos and Fil-Am Kelly Williams at the helm.

Santos, UAAP's back-to-back Most Valuable Player, averaged 12.6 points and 10.1 rebounds last conference. Williams also posted a double-double norm of 16.3 points and 10.9 rebounds.

Hefty center JR Quinahan will again spearhead the Tortillos' campaign. The 6-foot-6 center from Cebu had strong performance last conference when he was averaging 13.2 markers, 8.5 rebounds and 2.2 blocks. Admission is free. *Jasmine W. Payo*

THE MANILA Soccer Academy (in red, white and blue) and Poveda girls fight for ball possession in the Red Ribbon-PFF-Rifa Football Tournament held recently at the Ateneo de Manila University pitch.

Iloilo booters trounce Iligan

GAMES TODAY *(Manuel Torres Sports Center)*
8 a.m.—Iligan vs Rizal

BAGO CITY—BROTHERS MARK Iven and Joven Bedic powered Team Biscocho House-Iloilo past Iligan, 6-1, yesterday to complete a three-game sweep in Group B of the PFF-adidas Under-19 football championships at the Manuel Torres Sports Center pitch here.

The fleet-footed Mark Iven and Joven, who hail from the region's football hotbed—Barotac Nuevo, combined for three goals with the former scoring two—both from long-range—as Iloilo followed up Thursday's 9-0 whitewash of Rizal.

Meanwhile, Zamboanga fought back from a goal down to beat 10-man Masbate, 6-2, with five goals coming in the last 24 minutes of the game.

The victory gave Iloilo the top seeding in Group A heading into the crossover semis. The Ilonggos will most likely face the loser of the Negros Occidental Davao clash set late yesterday.

The Negrenses bucked the absence of four key players and head coach Norman Fegidero as they found a hero in left winger Leo Ernest Linda in a 2-0 victory over Zamboanga in a match shortened by rains and thunderstorms.

Inserted into the starting 11 for Jason Panhay, Linda, a West Negros College standout, made most out of the opportunity, knocking in two goals, including a grounding left-footed strike from 35 yards out that caught the Zamboanga defense off guard.

Spring Oil starts big with win over Abarzosa

SPRING COOKING OIL GOT off impressively in the 2005 Picaa Open basketball tournament Thursday, turning back El-Abarzosa-Pamplona, 89-84, at the Philippine Bhuddacare Academy gym in Quezon City.

Gilbert Neo, Mar Reyes and Danny Capobres fired 16 points each to help the Cooking Oil Masters of national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla overcome a 12-point halftime deficit and deal Abarzosa its first setback in two outings.

Marlon Kalaw also scored in double figures for Spring, now coached by Efren "Yong" Garcia.

With Alex Bognot, former pro Henry Fernandez and Nino Marquez leading the offensive, Abarzosa jumped to a 46-34 advantage at the turn.

Abarzosa, 79-66 winner over Golden Brid in the opener, did not have any answer to Spring's fierce attacks.

UCM-Lyceum downed Golden Brid in overtime, 84-78, in the other game.

The scores:

SPRING 89—Neo 16, Reyes 16, Caobres 16, Kalaw 10, Manuel 7, Taguines 6, Corbin 6, Hubalde 6, Victolero 5, De Castro 2.

ABARZOSA 84—Bognot 17, Fernandez 15, Marquez 12, Espinosa 8, Jarencio 6, Reyes 6, GUiyab 4, Victoria 2, Sese 2.Halftime: 34-46

Agusan del Sur hosts U-15 tilt

THE PFF-RED RIBBON U-15 championships kicked off recently at the Naligayan Plaza grounds, Governor D.O. Plaza Government Center, Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

Temotio Pronchina, vice chairman of the Youth and Sports Development Committee, graced the opening ceremony attended by players from Trento FC, Bunawan FC, San Francisco FC, Lapaz FC, Prosperidad FC, Sta. Irene FC, New Maasin FC and Patin-ay FC.

In the opening game Patin-ay FC downed New Maasin FC, 2-1, with goals contributed by Tyron Dave Tosco on the 13th minute and Jomar Osin in the 47th minute.

Lone scorer for New Maasin was Deloyola in the 61st minute.

In other matches, Bunawan FC defeated Prosperdidad FC, 2-0, and Sta. Irene routed San Francisco FC, 4-0. The event is being staged by the Agusan Del Sur Football Association headed by Eric Pocon. It is supported by the provincial government and sponsored by Petron, Pagcor Sports, 2Go, Adidas and United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

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Bata, Django beg off

THE LURE OF BIG money leagues in the United States has deprived the RP billiards team of at least three top bets in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Filipino pool legends Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante are definitely out of Team Philippines.

Also out of the lineup announced by Philippine Billiards and Snooker Congress is 2001 SEAG gold medalist Marlon Manalo, semifinalist in the last World Pool Championship in Taipei.

BSCP president Ernie Fajardo has tapped reigning US Open champion Alex Pagulayan, who will be seeing action in the Games for the first time, to lead the RP team in its quest to win most of the 14 golds, including two from the women's category.

Despite their absence, five-time SEA Games gold medalist Lee Van Corteza said the RP team would fight for the billiards and snookers overall championship.

Other veterans in the lineup, according to Fajardo, are Antonio Gabica, Dodong Andam, Gandy Valle, Dennis Orcollo and Ronnie Alcano.

Entries in the women's event are Rubilyn Amit, Mary Ann Basas and Iris Reinaldo.

SPORTSWATCH

PMI dribblers near title

DEFENDING champion Philippine Maritime Institute bested World Citi Colleges, 78-76, in the Cusa men's basketball tournament at the CCP gym in Sta. Mesa, Manila, recently. The Admirals went to Chris Sta. Maria and Larry Rodriguez in the closing minutes to turn back the Vikings and move within a win of retaining the title. Sta. Maria scored 20 points, including a split off his free throw attempts with five seconds remaining, to clinch the win for the Dado Santiago-mentored Admirals. The 6-foot-5 Rodriguez added 19 points and a game-high 25 rebounds. He also had eight assists and seven blocks. Khasim Mirza carried the fight for the Vikings with 17 points, followed by Marvin Macalalad with 16 and Norman Ilao with 15. In the women's division, Philippine College of Criminology edged PMI, 49-48, to forge a deciding third game for the title. Katrina Garcia and Grace Quemada scored 12 points each for the Lady Enforcers of coach Bang Tumapat. Janice de Guzman finished with 11 points for the Lady Admirals, who took the opener, 71-59.

Organizers postpone drag race

DUE to inclement weather, organizers decided to postpone the kickoff of the 2005 PCSO National Drag Racing Championship series slated today at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. BRC Drag Racing race director Fil Gulfin said the continuous heavy rain rendered the track dangerous for competing cars in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) and sponsored by PCSO, Petron, SParco and supported by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, Denso Spark Plugs, Casino Filpino, GV 99.9 FM and DaBEst98.5 FM. The organizers decided to move the event on Nov. 19 also at the BRC Drag Strip, with the next legs on Dec. 10, Jan. 26 and the championship round in February 2006. Contact the Batangas Racing Circuit c/o BRC Manager Sherwin Mojica Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

PCAP Stagfighter race today

WHO will emerge as the first Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) Stagfighter of the Year winner? This will be known tonight when the PCAP Grand Championship 5–stag derby unfolds at the Makati Coliseum starting at 5 p.m. Loyal followers of PCAP derbies can take advantage of the "buy–one, take–one" offer today. Based on the latest rankings, Henry Villarica's VP Alegria Uma is the current leader with 27 points. Expected to go all out tonight are other top contenders like Boy Marzo (BM Bulalayaw, 25.5), Efren Canlas (Bacolor Gold, 25); eight PCAP champion Rudy Albano (RJ Mulawin, 24); Pepito Ngo, Jet Fernando and Jingco Brothers (Fajinfer, 23.5); Sonny Lagon and Gerry Ramos (Blue Blade Joke 3x, 23); Jun Pascual (Grand Villa Butterfly, 22.5) and Ruel Ricafort (RT 114, 21). For details, contact 896-3545 and 895-6475.

Big Event finals up at SJC

THE GCAP Big Event 8-stag derby resumes today at the air-conditioned San Juan Coliseum. The four-stag championship round will feature 62 fights beginning at 5 p.m. "Participants are gunning not only for the hefty guaranteed prize, but mainly for the distinction of being the best in the league of top-notch cockers, since ace gamebirds are usually fielded in this derby," said GCAP founder Patrick Antonio. Among those seeking the title are Antonio, Boy de Roca, Rudy Albano, Sonny Lagon, Boy Marso, Boy Jiao, Gov. Tony Kho of Masbate, boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, Mike Romulo, Mayor Dennis Pineda, Mayor Dunca, Bebot Roxas, Jun Topacio, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Benjie Lim, Dicky Lim, Boy Royo and Allan Tan. For details, contact the SJC office: 725-5665, 7255369 and 7277086 (look for Ariel). Meanwhile, members of GCAP agreed yesterday to hold the third Big Event 8–stag derby on Nov. 9.

SATURDAY Special

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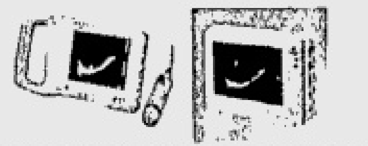

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Rousing retrospective pays tribute to Luther Vandross

By Rito P. Asilo

GRIEF AND MOURNING permeate the album, "So Amazing: An All-Star Tribute to Luther Vandross," the 15-track collection that pays tribute to the R&B legend, who passed away last July after a lingering illness at the age of 54.

Indeed, the legendary singer's songs, as interpreted by some of the recording industry's most celebrated artists, drip with sadness and plaintive longing, even when, ironically, most of them are love songs. Yes, they're sad, but never sullen or schmaltzy.

Most significant

If anything, the compilation is a rousing celebration of the crooner's most significant contributions to contemporary pop culture: His voice *and* his music.

"So Amazing" transforms the murky melodrama of death and mourning into a celebration of Vandross' life and times.

Mary J. Blige launches the vocal showcase with her finger-snapping rendition of the sizzling "Never Too Much," culled from Vandross' 1981 debut.

Except perhaps for "Anyone Who Had a Heart," Luther's posthumous albeit lackluster "duet" with Elton John—recorded courtesy of modern technology's Pro-Tools—there's hardly a throwaway single in the hefty playlist. If you like great singing, "So Amazing" is a showcase for just that!

VANDROSS. New album is a showcase for great singing.

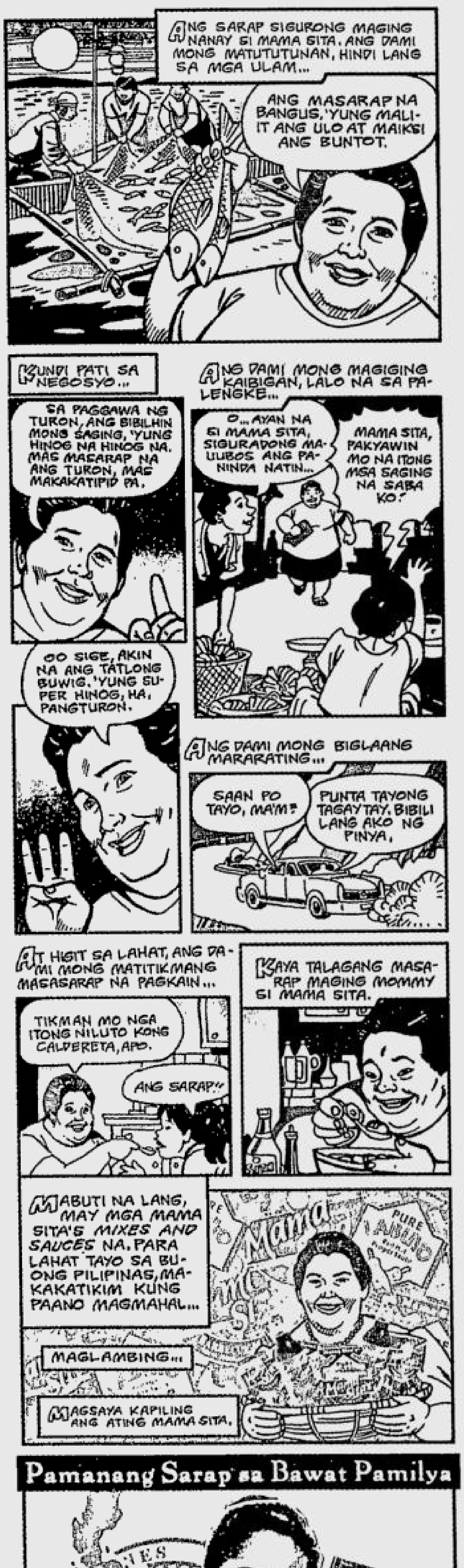
You'll also find the same infectious energy and catchy grooves in other tracks like "American Idol" winner, Fantasia Barrino's coltish interpretation of "'Til My Baby Comes Home." Also, Donna Summer's disco-flavored and techno-inspired "Power of Love," the singer's 1991 Grammy-winning hit. In the single, she sings without soppy sentimentality, "I wanna say goodbye, but not for long. . ."

Soaring, touching versions

In "Creepin'," Jamie Foxx ("Ray") demonstrates the pipes that helped him win an Oscar early this year. Aretha Franklin and

ROUSING/ A2-3

Ang masarap na kwento ni
Mama Sita



ANG SARAP SIGURONG MAGING NANAY SI MAMA SITA. ANG DAMI MONG MATUTUTUNAN, HINDI LANG SA MGA ULAM...
ANG MASARAP NA BANGUS, 'YUNG MALIIT ANG ULO AT MAIKSI ANG BUNTOT.
KUNDI PATI SA NEGOSYO...
SA PAGGAWA NG TURON, ANG BIBILHIN MONG SAGING, 'YUNG HINOG NA HINOG NA. MAS MASARAP NA ANG TURON, MAS MAKAKATIPID PA.
OO SIGE, AKIN NA ANG TATLONG BUWIG. 'YUNG SUPER HINOG, HA, PANGTURON.
ANG DAMI MONG MAGIGING KAIBIGAN, LALO NA SA PALENGKE...
O... AYAN NA SI MAMA SITA, SIGURADONG MAUUBOS ANG PANINDA NATIN...
MAMA SITA, PAKYAWIN MO NA ITONG MGA SAGING NA SABA KO.
ANG DAMI MONG BIGLAANG MARARATING...
SAAN PO TAYO, MA'M?
PUNTA TAYONG TAGAYTAY. BIBILI LANG AKO NG PINYA.
AT HIGIT SA LAHAT, ANG DAMI MONG MATITIKMANG MASASARAP NA PAGKAIN...
TIKMAN MO NGA ITONG NILUTO KONG CALDERETA, APO.
ANG SARAP!!
KAYA TALAGANG MASARAP MAGING MOMMY SI MAMA SITA.
MABUTI NA LANG, MAY MGA MAMA SITA'S MIXES AND SAUCES NA. PARA LAHAT TAYO SA BUONG PILIPINAS, MAKAKATIKIM KUNG PAANO MAGMAHAL...
MAGLAMBING...
MAGSAYA KAPILING ANG ATING MAMA SITA.

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Billy Crawford's 'Exorcist' prequel out on DVD

By Nestor U. Torre

CRAWFORD (LEFT). Through the creative use of prosthetics, the handsome actor is made to look appropriately broken and pathetic as the devil's first victim.

FANS OF BILLY CRAWFORD who were frustrated when his stellar bid in US films failed to make it to the big screen, all is not lost: Billy's starrer, "Dominion: Prequel to The Exorcist," has been released on DVD and VCD.

Billed as "the spellbinding alternate version of how the horror began," "Dominion" was directed by Paul Schrader. The film was praised by Roger Ebert as "a milestone in movie history—a strong, true and intelligent movie that kept me fearful and fascinated from beginning to end."

Prequel

But, its producers turned it down, some say because it wasn't bloody and violent enough. The prequel was shot again by another director, Renny Harlin, and it was his version that made it to theaters—with not very impressive results.

So, look up the Billy Crawford starrer to see if it's better. And, of course, to find out how well Billy does as a US movie actor.

Schrader's version tells the story of Fr. Lankester Merrin (Stellan Skarsgard), back to his first encounter with the Devil in post-WWII Africa.

Traveling to East Africa, Merrin hopes to forget the war's horrific events, and to repair his tattered beliefs, which have lapsed following the gruesome battles he's witnessed.

Dejected priest

Once in Africa, the dejected priest runs into a team of archeologists who are unearthing a church, which appears to have been buried for several centuries.

As Merrin helps the team with its discoveries, some brutal and bloody events take place, leading to his first encounter with the powerful demon, who would return to haunt him.

Result

Billy plays the demon's first victim, and suffers terribly as a result of its devilish onslaught. Other lead roles are played by Clara Bellar, Gabriel Mann and Ralph Brown.

The DVD includes the director's commentary, a stills gallery, and deleted scenes.

Also now on DVD and VCD is the 2005 version of the 1953 horror classic, "House of Wax," starring Paris Hilton, Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray and Jared Padalecki. Other features: A gag reel, a visual effects featurette, and the design of the "House of Wax."

58 countries to compete for Oscar's best foreign film

LOS ANGELES—A RECORD 58 countries from four continents are vying for nominations in next year's best foreign language film Oscar category, including first time entrants Iraq and Fiji, officials said recently.

Organizers of cinema's top awards unveiled the entrants for the 2006 Academy Awards' foreign movie section three months ahead of the announcement of the nominations for the 78th annual Oscars.

Star-studded show

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences had invited 91 countries to present a film for consideration for the 2006 Oscar for best foreign film, and the winner will be unveiled at a star-studded show in Hollywood on March 5.

Iraq entered "Requiem of Snow," a Kurdish language film from director Jamil Rostami, about Kurds praying for rain in a drought-parched area of the country.

The tiny Pacific island of Fiji submitted "The Land Has Eyes," its first movie about indigenous Fijians from director Vilsoni Hereniko, according to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The movie, which premiered at last year's Sundance Film Festival, tells of a young girl whose father is unjustly convicted of stealing from a neighbor, which brings crushing disgrace upon the entire family in the islands' close-knit culture.

France's hopeful in the race for the coveted golden statuette is "Joyeux Noel" ("Merry Christmas"), a World War I drama directed by Christian Carion, the Academy said. The film beat out the hit documentary, "March of the Penguins," for France's official entry to the Oscars race.

CHUNG. Topbills Chen Kaige's "The Promise."

Under hotly-disputed rules, each country can only submit one film for the best foreign-language Oscar category, and that submission must be predominantly in the language of the entering country.

Initial choice

The rule brought woes to Italy's initial choice for its entrant in the best foreign language film Oscar race, Saverio Costanzo's "Private," a Palestinian drama that was rejected, because the dialogue is in Arabic, Hebrew and English.

Instead, Italy submitted Cristina Comencini's film, "La Bestia Nel Cuore" (The Beast in the Heart), which deals with the issues of childhood incest and lesbianism.

Islamic Iran entered Reza Mir Karimi's "So Close, So Far," the story of a self-absorbed neurosurgeon who sets off into the desert to locate and reconcile with his 18-year-old son, and a finale involving divine intervention.

Hong Kong submitted "Perhaps Love," by director Peter Chan Ho-Sun, while China's entry is "The Promise," by Chen Kaige. It stars Cecilia Chung.

India, famed for its Bollywood film production center, fielded the fantasy folk-tale, "Paheli," by Amol Palekar, as its official entry.

The film tells the story of a bride who meets a ghost on the way home from her wedding, and eventually ends up taking the spirit for her lover.

Japan entered "Blood and Bones" by director Yoichi Sai, the story of a violent and hard-drinking fish factory worker who becomes a loan shark.

South Korea's official entry was "Welcome to Dongmakgol," by celebrated director Park Kwang-hyun, a Korean war drama about soldiers from both sides of the divide who live among villagers who know nothing of the war.

Entry

The Central American nation of Costa Rica submitted its first Oscar entry, "Caribe," from Esteban Ramirez.

South Africa's entry is "Tsotsi," directed by Gavin Hood, a crime drama about a teenage gangster who faces a moral dilemma after inadvertently kidnapping a baby during a carjacking.

Spain, which won this year's best foreign language film Oscar for Alejandro Amenabar "The Sea Inside," entered Montxo Armendariz's fantasy tale, "Obaba."

AFP

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TV GUIDE

Saturday, October 29, 2005

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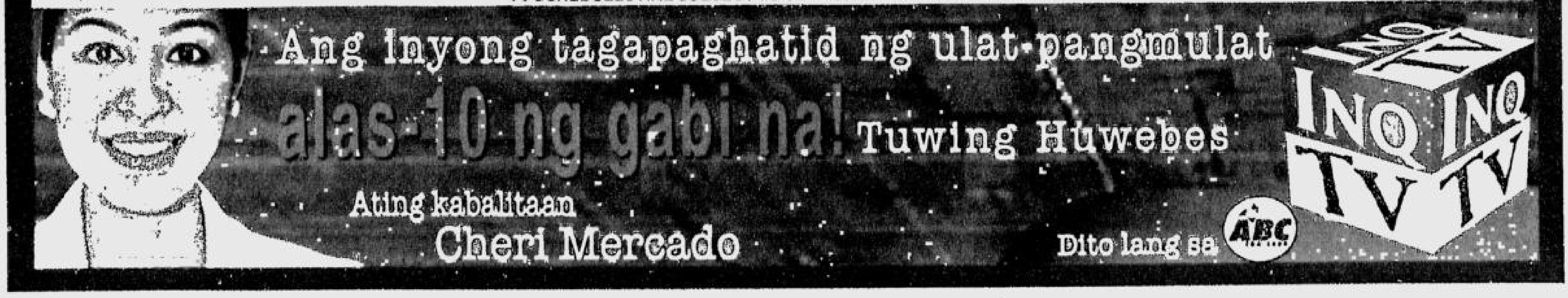
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN				Corporate Billiards League		Concert at the Park		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			The Working President	GSIS Member's Hour		UN Summit - PGMA		Paco Park Presents		Auto Focus	
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Ngiiilig		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue	Magandang Gabi Bayan		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
ABC 5		KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Mr. Fighting		Wow Maling Mali		Club TV		Krus Na Kawayan			
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
RPN 9		Tara Lets	Ma'm Working	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		The Godsend				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		CMMA Awards Night				Bitag		Philippine Sabong Sports	Global Family Series	In This Corner	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shopping		Friends Again		Shepherds Voice		EZ Shop		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Gilmore Girls	Jack & Bobby	The Bachelorette		Studio 23 Presents					Real Deal
MTV Philippines	Hanging Out	MTV Hits	Wade Robson Project	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	MTV Livewire		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX		MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5		Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	Next@CNN	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	International Correspondents	World News	Spark	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
ESPN			English Premier League Preview	Classic Boxing		UCA Nissan Super Varsity Coed Cheerleading	Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '05	Sportscenter Asia	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	World Snooker Tour The Masters '05					
Solar Sports			WTA 2005				Swatch FIVB World Tour '05 Final				Swatch FIVB World Men's Final Athens		GWS	US 9-Ball Open 2005				In This Corner	
Sports Plus						US Open 2005										Chrysler Championship Day 2			
Cinemax				Hollywood Confidential			Necessary Roughness				Out For Justice			Fool For Love			Bad Boys II (10:45PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	A Christmas Carol				Just A Dream				Cactus Kid				Mitch Albom's 5 People You Meet In Heaven					Roman Spring Of Mrs. Stone
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery								Wild Discovery				Guilty Or Innocent				Extreme Discovery	
National Geographic		China Special				Penguin Death Zone		Creature Feature				Mystery Of The Diker		Leopard Seals		Big Bite Nile			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	The Road Runner Show	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack				Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	The Gransazors	Justice League	Sealab 2021 (11:15PM)	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Nickelodeon	1, 2, 3	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Chalkzone	Avatar The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall			Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Email Live			How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Look For Less			Fashion Trance	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Monk		John Doe		Chronicles: News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters		Enterprise		Kumars At 42	Less Than Perfect
AXN		Sniper 2				WRC 2005: France		WRC 2005: Rally XS	E Buzz	Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	The Amazing Race Family Edition		Las Vegas		House		The Shield	
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				South Park	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC		Saturday Night Live		For Love Or Money		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	The Buried Secret Of M. Night Shyamalan (2:45PM)				Blood Blues (4:45PM)				The Big Preview: Doom	Black Rain				A Cinderella Story			Deadwood 11: Jewel's Boot Is Made For Walking		Changing Lanes
Star Movies			A Life Less Ordinary			Random Hearts (5:15PM)					The One			2005 Taurus World Stunt Awards			Tremors 3: Back To Perfection		
Cinema One	Sigaw				Sanggano				My Movie				Dahil Ba Sa Kanya				Doppelganger		
EWTN	Voices On Virtue	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Beatitudes	Story Keepers	Faith Factory C	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15PM)	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Choices We Face	Crisis In Culture	Life on The Rock Encore	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.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How stars look good on the road

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

FOR CELEBRITIES, GETTING AWAY FROM the kleig lights is a luxury in itself. But, what do they pack when they travel out-of-town or abroad, or just paint the town red?

Ina Raymundo: She heads for the beach whenever she's stressed out. Rest and beautiful surroundings are therapeutic for her. *"Mahilig ako sa magagandang lugar. Gusto ko sa* States, *kasi mahilig akong mag*-shopping."

She swears that she travels with her cold cream and her body lotion. "I use cold cream to take off my make-up. *Kailangan, hanggang bata ka pa, alagaan mo na ang* complexion *mo*. I also apply lotion everyday, *mga* 10 times."

Heaven

Maricel Soriano: Any place is heaven for her as long as she's with her sons. *"Malungkot kapag wala ang mga anak ko. Pero siyempre, kailangan komportable sila at malinis yung lugar,"* she reveals.

Her being an actress naturally requires her to travel for location shootings and tapings. Widely known to be squeaky-clean, Maricel always has a bottle of alcohol and disinfectant. *"Dapat, laging malinis ang pakiramdam mo para maaliwalas ang dating mo habang nagtatrabaho ka,"* she explains.

Agot Isidro: Agot admits that she loves to travel abroad or hie off to the beach once in a while to recharge. For her, New York is the place to be because she lived there before she became a host/actress.

"Parang masarap din magpunta sa Africa. *Napaka*-exotic! I love to go to New York, *kasi alam ko kung saan masarap kumain at mag*-shopping," she smiles.

Agot always brings cetaphil lotion because it's effective in cleansing her skin.

Beautiful beaches

Vanessa del Bianco: "I've been everywhere, but I especially liked the Bahamas and California. They have beautiful beaches," she gushes.

She dreams of traveling to Hawaii and Europe. "I'd like to visit Paris because it's touted to be a romantic city. I'd also like to try diving in Hawaii," she grins.

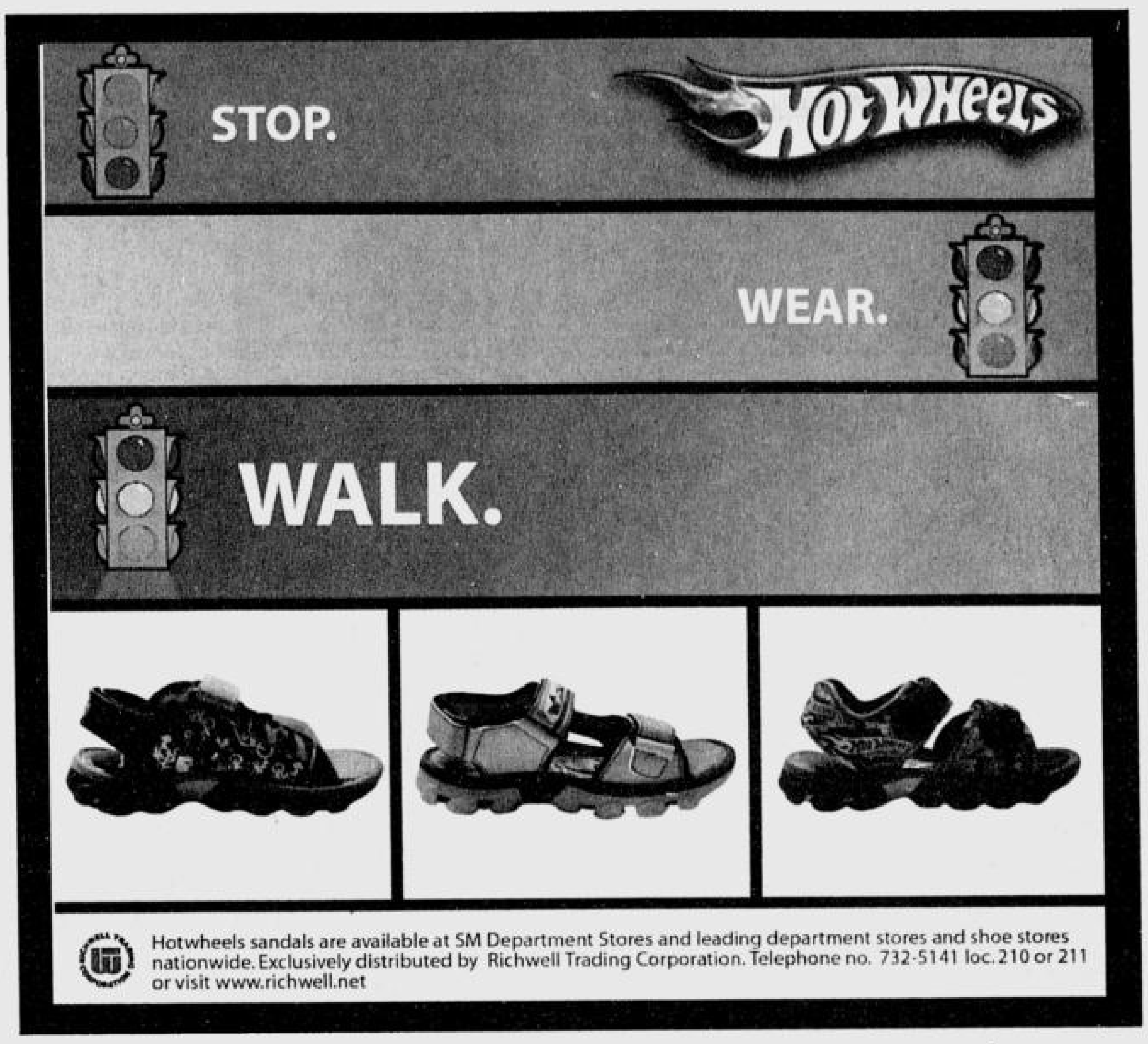
Whenever she travels, she packs her lotion, moisturizer and soap to keep her feeling fresh.

Jamie Rivera: She can't forget her lovely days in London, which is like a second home to her because she stayed there for two years (as Kim in "Miss Saigon"). "I know the ins and outs of London, where to eat and shop. I'd like to visit Bath (a beautifully preserved spa town in the county of Avon) again."

If she should travel back to London she'll pack lotions to keep her skin soft, even if the weather is cold.

SORIANO. Squeaky-clean.

ISIDRO AND RIVERA. Agot loves New York, Jamie adores London.



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Rousing retrospective pays tribute to Luther Vandross

From page A2-1

Patti LaBelle up the vocal ante with soaring, touching versions of "A House is Not a Home" and "Here and Now," respectively.

Likewise, it's hard not to get swept off your feet by Usher's bluesy, jazzy rendering of the classic standard, "Superstar"; Angie Stone's "Since I Lost My Baby"; John Legend's "Love Won't Let Me Wait"; Alicia Keys and Jermaine Paul's "If This World Were Mine," and Babyface's bittersweet "If Only for One Night."

For his part, Wyclef Jean gives the sappy "Always and Forever" a grungy, hip-hop, R&B-tinged groove.

Choice cuts

Other than Blige's "Never Too Much," choice cuts include the collaboration of Beyoncé Knowles and Stevie Wonder in the seamlessly sung "So Amazing," a track that combines the duo's smooth pipes and the song's gliding melody and harmony.

Then, there's Celine Dion's powerful rendition of Vandross' "Dancing With My Father," a cut from the singer's multiple Grammy-winning album of the same title.

Yes, Dion, may not have Barbra Streisand's depth. But, nobody can deny her enviable range, technique and musicality. Rather than indulge in studio-enhanced recordings of less-than-talented recording artists, we'd go for Dion anytime—regardless of what her critics say!

Heartfelt interpretation

Emotionally-challenged listeners may find the song hokey and maudlin, but nothing beats a heartfelt interpretation and lyrics that speak straight from the heart.

Sentimental or not, the song resonates with undeniable emotional power, and captures an inner longing that many listeners can relate to.

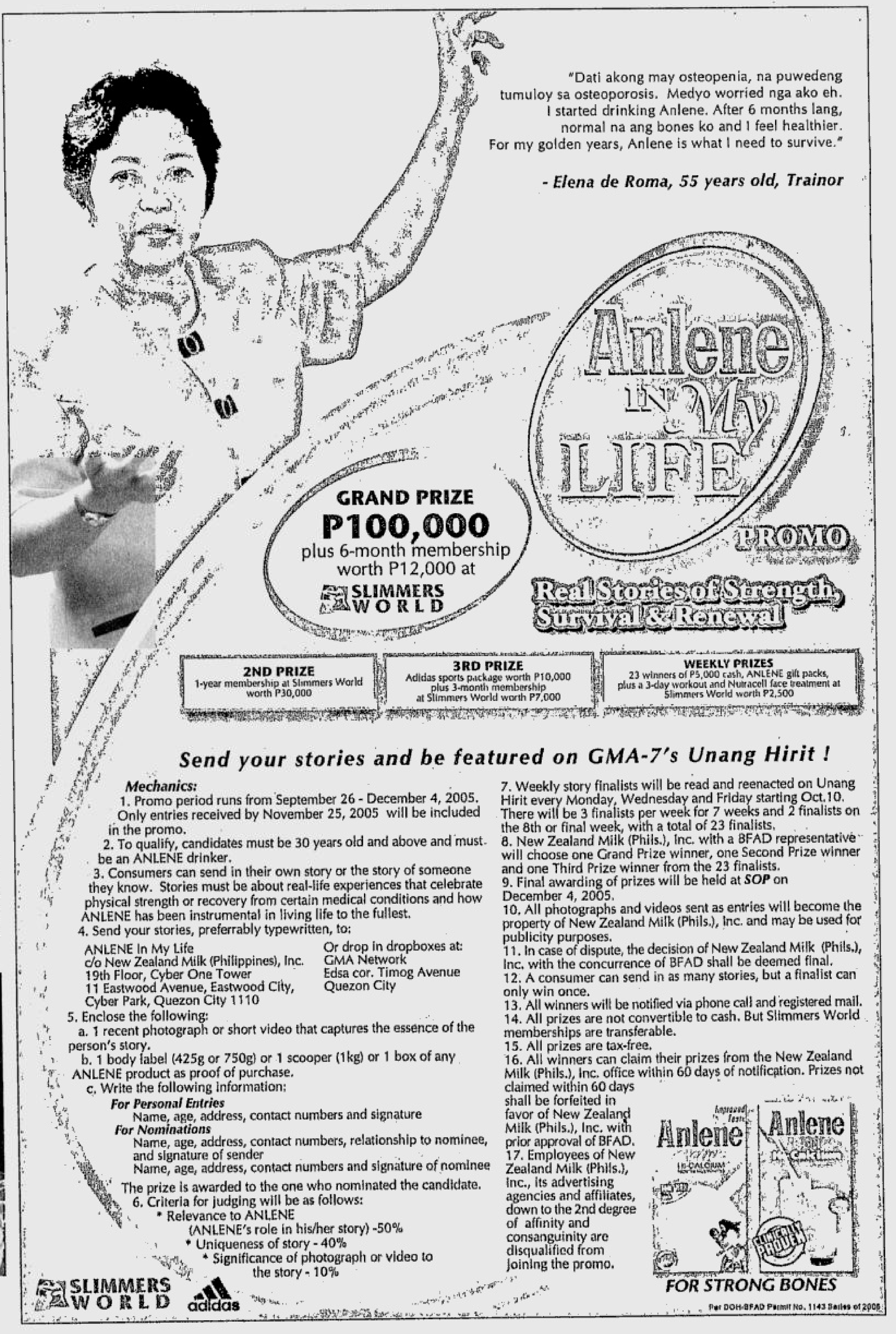
Its lyrics linger: "Back when I was a child, before life removed all the innocence, my father would lift me high, and dance with my mother and me. Then, he'd spin me around till I fall asleep...

"If I could get another chance, another walk, another dance with him/ If I could steal one final glance, one final step, one final dance with him, I'll play a song that would never end. I would love to dance with my father again!"

DION. Enviable range, technique and musicality.

KNOWLES. Seamlessly sung duet with Stevie Wonder.

USHER. Bluesy, jazzy rendering of classic standard, "Superstar."



"Dati akong may osteopenia, na puwedeng tumuloy sa osteoporosis. Medyo worried nga ako eh. I started drinking Anlene. After 6 months lang, normal na ang bones ko and I feel healthier. For my golden years, Anlene is what I need to survive."

- Elena de Roma, 55 years old, Trainor

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Send your stories and be featured on GMA-7's Unang Hirit !

Mechanics:

1. Promo period runs from September 26 - December 4, 2005. Only entries received by November 25, 2005 will be included in the promo.
2. To qualify, candidates must be 30 years old and above and must be an ANLENE drinker.
3. Consumers can send in their own story or the story of someone they know. Stories must be about real-life experiences that celebrate physical strength or recovery from certain medical conditions and how ANLENE has been instrumental in living life to the fullest.
4. Send your stories, preferrably typewritten, to:

ANLENE In My Life
c/o New Zealand Milk (Philippines), Inc.
19th Floor, Cyber One Tower
11 Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City,
Cyber Park, Quezon City 1110

Or drop in dropboxes at:
GMA Network
Edsa cor. Timog Avenue
Quezon City

5. Enclose the following:
a. 1 recent photograph or short video that captures the essence of the person's story.
b. 1 body label (425g or 750g) or 1 scooper (1kg) or 1 box of any ANLENE product as proof of purchase.
c. Write the following information:
For Personal Entries
Name, age, address, contact numbers and signature
For Nominations
Name, age, address, contact numbers, relationship to nominee, and signature of sender
Name, age, address, contact numbers and signature of nominee
The prize is awarded to the one who nominated the candidate.
6. Criteria for judging will be as follows:
* Relevance to ANLENE (ANLENE's role in his/her story) -50%
* Uniqueness of story - 40%
* Significance of photograph or video to the story - 10%
7. Weekly story finalists will be read and reenacted on Unang Hirit every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting Oct.10. There will be 3 finalists per week for 7 weeks and 2 finalists on the 8th or final week, with a total of 23 finalists.
8. New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with a BFAD representative will choose one Grand Prize winner, one Second Prize winner and one Third Prize winner from the 23 finalists.
9. Final awarding of prizes will be held at *SOP* on December 4, 2005.
10. All photographs and videos sent as entries will become the property of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. and may be used for publicity purposes.
11. In case of dispute, the decision of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with the concurrence of BFAD shall be deemed final.
12. A consumer can send in as many stories, but a finalist can only win once.
13. All winners will be notified via phone call and registered mail.
14. All prizes are not convertible to cash. But Slimmers World memberships are transferable.
15. All prizes are tax-free.
16. All winners can claim their prizes from the New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. office within 60 days of notification. Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited in favor of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with prior approval of BFAD.
17. Employees of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc., its advertising agencies and affiliates, down to the 2nd degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

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Who should be our next National Artist for Film?

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT THE three-year process for selecting a new batch of National Artists has been initiated, people in the movies have been asking us who our next National Artist for Film should be. Well, let's see:

To date, we've had five National Artists for Cinema—Gerardo de Leon, Lamberto V. Avellana, Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal and Eddie Romero.

Retrospective

Based on our own viewing of their movies (we started watching Filipino films in the '60s, and have seen retrospective screenings of older movies, including a couple from the late '30s), other worthy candidates for the country's supreme artistic honor would include Manuel Conde, Manuel Silos, Gregorio V. Fernandez, and Mike de Leon.

Some years ago, we suggested to somebody close to Conde to start collating his extant films, and corroborating data to help fuel a campaign for the late filmmaker to at least get nominated for the National Artist award.

Exceptional nature

Alas, little has been done along these lines, and that's a great pity because, if you look through Conde's filmography, you'll see titles that clearly exemplify the exceptional nature of his film oeuvre:

CONDE. It could be time for him to get his due.

"Genghis Khan" was praised internationally, and was honored with a standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival in the '50s. It was narrated by no less than the American critic, James Agee.

His "Sawing Gantimpala" was scripted by no less than *Doña* Aurora Quezon!

Wicked satire

"Ang Ibong Adarna" was a great critical and popular hit.

"Juan Tamad Goes to Congress" was a cheerfully wicked satire on Philippine politicians. In our view, it's still the best Filipino comedy ever filmed!

"Doon Po Sa Amin" showcased the richness of Filipino traditions.

"Siete Infantes de Lara" won the Filipinas award in the 1950 Philippines Herald-dmHM polls.

"Bahala Na" was about the mining industry. "Ikaw Kasi" focused on the coconut industry. "Tingnan Natin" dealt with tourism.

"Philippine Rhapsody" was a visualization of local musical themes like "Lulay."

Indictment

And "Molave" was a strong indictment against exploitation of workers and despoilation of forest resources—filmed many years before such issues became "relevant."

Clearly, these are significant filmic achievements that would bolster the view that Manuel Conde could be our next National Artist for Film.

Unfortunately, Conde and other outstanding filmmakers who were active many decades ago suffer from our cavalier disregard for our film history.

Very few of their movies are still extant, so how can evaluators today who haven't seen their movies affirm their artistic excellence? Do they simply take our word for it? Not likely!

Reviews

Do they go by secondary-sources, reviews printed in newspapers, the recollections of the late filmmakers' contemporaries, etc.?

Granted, this is a difficult task, but it would be worse if we just throw up our hands, bewail the lack of extant "proof," and don't give deserving film artists like Conde their due. *(To be concluded)*

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	11:30 am	2:00 pm	4:30	7:00 pm	9
OCT.29 (cinema 2)	In Casablanca Angels Don't Fly	Dear Wendy	Moolaade	In Casablanca Angels Don't Fly	President's Last Bang
(Preview Room)	One Night in Mongkok	Neighbor No.13	The King	My Nikifor	Moolaade
OCT.30 (cinema 2)		Whale Rider	Tae Guk Gi	Whale Rider	The King
(Preview Room)	Pelicanman	The King	President's Last Bang	In Casablanca Angels Don't Fly	Tae Guk Gi

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4. Winners will be pre-drawn during the segment in Magandang Umaga Pilipinas as follows:
a. Weekly winners will win ₱2,500 cash and Kolours gift packs.
b. Grand Raffle draw winners:
i. (1) winner of Hong Kong Extravaganza for 2 with ₱100,000 cash
ii. (15) consolation prizes of ₱5,000
5. Promo duration is from October 5 to November 16, 2005.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
1. Winners will be notified thru registered mail. The notification letter will indicate when, where and how the winners will claim their prizes. Winners must bring the notification letter together with any of the following for identification purposes: Driver's license, Company ID, School ID, Passport, NBI/Police clearance.
2. Winners must claim their prizes within 60 days upon receipt of the notification letter.
3. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of notification letter will be forfeited with prior approval of DOH-BFAD official in favor of Splash Corp.
4. Winners declared by DOH-BFAD, Splash Corp and its representatives are final.
5. Prizes are tax-fee and non-transferable. The trip to Hong Kong is convertible to cash.
6. All employees of Splash Corp and its sister companies, their distributors and advertising and promo agencies and their relatives of up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

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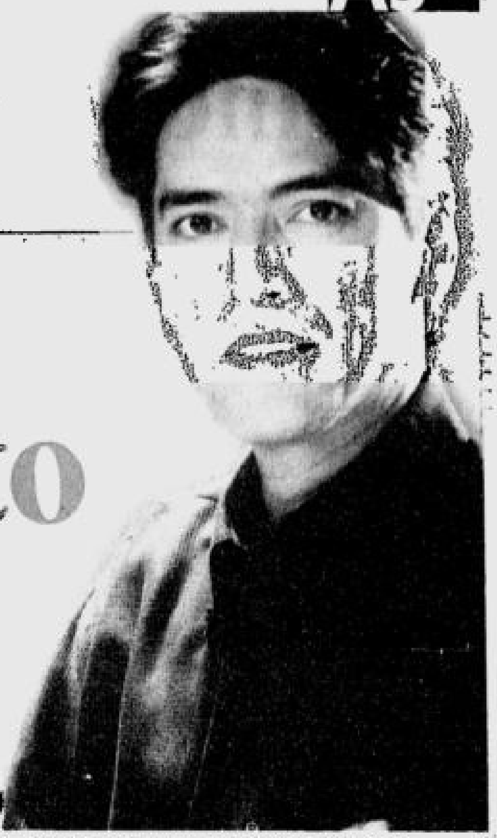


SOTTO. Likable, unthreatening presence.

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Legend of Zorro"

D: Martin Campbell
S: Antonio Banderas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Rufus Sewell

MARTIN CAMPBELL'S FOLLOW-up to the hugely successful "The Mask of Zorro" (1998) happens a decade after Alejandro and Elena dela Vega (Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones) exchange marital vows.

Joaquin (Adrian Alonso), the duo's precocious 10-year-old son, doesn't know that the absentee father he seldom sees and the masked crusader whom he idolizes are one and the same.

However, there's trouble brewing on the feisty couple's home front: Alejandro and Elena are headed for divorce after he reneges on his promise to quit playing vigilante.

But, Zorro has become second skin for Alejandro. And shady, pesky characters, who seem intent on doing everything to stop California's entry into the union of the United States, are making it doubly hard for Alejandro to turn his back on the people he has sworn to protect against San Mateo's oppressive forces. To make things worse, Armand (Rufus Sewell), a dashing, mysterious Spanish count, is just waiting in the wings to snatch Elena from Alejandro's arms.

This time, when Zorro is called upon to save the day, he is suddenly faced with a fork in the road: He has to decide what weighs heaviest among his priorities in life: Family or country?

Banderas and Zeta-Jones, their palpable chemistry still evident after seven years, keep Campbell's predictable but crowd-pleasing franchise breezy and charming, and infuse their scenes together with zestful playfulness and tongue-in-cheek humor.

Although unnecessarily lengthy, the film's high-flying action sequences still make for a swashbuckling adventure: It may not be as fresh as the first, but it still delivers on frenetic frills and cheap thrills.

"Ispiritista"

D: Tony Reyes
S: Vic Sotto, Cindy Kurleto

After his bout with grief and depression due to the death of his wife, Nancy (Iza Calzado), which leads to the loss of money and property, Victor Espiritu (Vic Sotto) cons people into believing that he can communicate with the dead. Unknown to him, however, his son, Tom Tom (BJ Forbes), possesses the power that he claims to have.

But, when Victor meets the beautiful landlady, Lalaine (Cindy Kurleto), whose dorm is haunted by a trio of gay ghosts (Teri Onor, Allan K, Soxy Topacio) and an angry young man (Antonio Aquitania), he is torn between winning her love by carrying on with his deception and risking losing her affection by revealing himself to her.

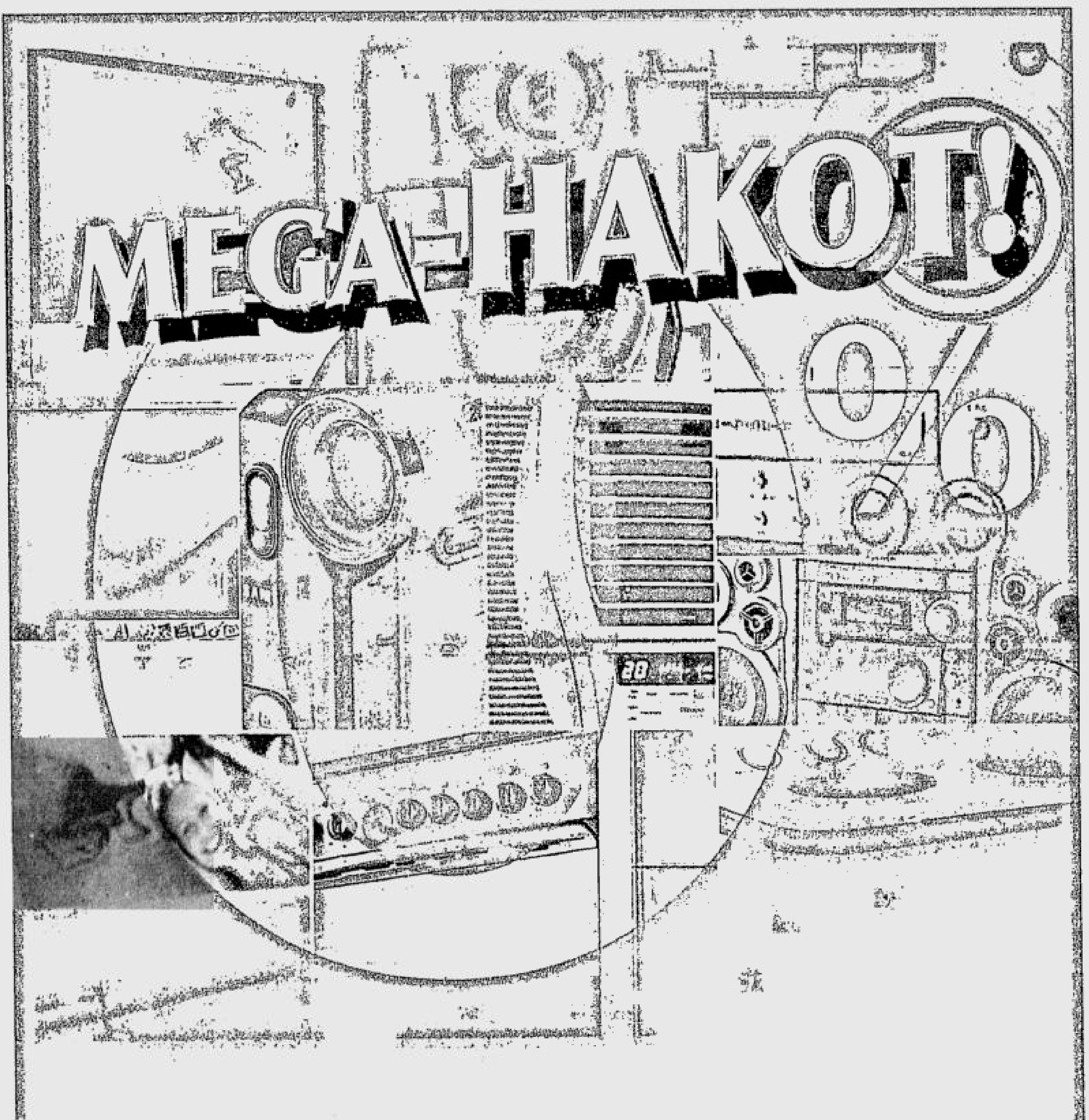
His supposed power to cleanse haunted abodes of unwanted, evil forces is suddenly put to the test when Lalaine seeks his assistance to exorcise the demons that inhabit her family's ancestral home.

Along with his quirky gang, he saunters into the haunted house with Tom Tom, Lalaine and her Aunt Cora (Jean Saburit), Victor's two dimwitted assistants and a senile priest, Fr. Ben(Joonee Gamboa).

But, the inhabitants of the house, headed by a vengeful ghost (Robert Arevalo), don't take the sudden disruption of peace lightly—so, all hell breaks lose, literally!

Using the formula that brought box-office big bucks to Joyce Bernal's

BANDERAS/ A3-2



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Regine Velasquez leads a full life

By Jocelyn Valle

FOR REGINE VELASQUEZ, who shows up sporting a witch's hat for our interview, Halloween means bonding time with her family. "We dress up, parade in costumes around our house in Bulacan, whip up a feast, and play bingo together," she discloses.

"It's been our tradition for the last 15 years. *Dati, kami-kami lang, pero ngayon, dumadami na kami,* because two of my sisters are already married and have kids. We also have more dogs now."

VELASQUEZ. Halloween is a time to bond with family.

Costume

Coming up with the most creative costume is serious business for them, Regine points out. "One time, Cacai and her family showed up in Japanese finery. Last year, *naka*-Mulawin *ang mga anak ni* Dianne, my mom was Wonder Woman *at nag*-costume *ang Tatay ko* for the first time!"

Even the maids join in the fun as "*manananggal* and white ladies," says Regine with a laugh.

As for herself, the songbird admits to being corny. "Usually, I just paint my face with a butterfly design. But last year, I was Darna, and I'll be Darna again this year—because I got a new set of costumes (for a movie project)."

Regine is exempt from the contest, as she's the one who gives out cash incentives. "But, more than the money, we do it for the sheer fun of it," she explains.

Simple joys like these keeps the 35-year-old performer, who's been on the top of her game for more than a decade now, from getting stuck in a rut and go on living a full life.

Away from the limelight, she busies herself with hobbies like painting and needlecraft. She takes pride in her crocheted cellphone holders.

Atmosphere

Regine also loves to hang out in her bathroom. "There's a certain atmosphere in there that's conducive to creative thinking and relaxation," she nods.

"In fact, I've thought up many ideas for albums and concerts in the bathroom." A case in point is her latest series of shows, "Reflections," at the Aliw Theater (Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19, and Dec. 9 and 10), which she produces and directs.

The songbird looks back at her 20 years in the biz through the songs of her idols, Barbra Streisand, Sheena Easton, Angela Bofill, Sharon Cuneta, Kuh Ledesma, Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey.

US child stars remembered

By Behn Cervantes

SHIRLEY TEMPLE WAS NO DOUBT THE queen of child stars. In her heyday, she was so popular that she earned more money than the President of the United States!

There was no doubt that the pretty and precocious child actress was the film capital's top box-office draw for many years. Temple "provided a bright little spot in the Depression years" and was considered a "national institution."

Shirley had starred in one-reel films before she was four. After "Stand Up and Cheer," the doll-like Temple was signed by Fox. She reached "unprecedented heights of popularity" within months of her formal entry to the movie arena.

In fact, at the end of her first year, she received a special Academy Award in recognition of her talent and box-office draw.

Popularity

She had clearly outdistanced other child stars, because no one enjoyed popularity as much as she did. Temple could sing, act and dance.

The daughter of a bank teller, the Santa Monica native was born on April 23, 1928. She started taking dance and singing lessons at age three. She was noted for impersonating celebrities like Marlene Dietrich.

However, there were challengers to Temple's throne—like Jane Withers. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Withers made her screen debut at age six. She had been honed in vaudeville and on the radio.

WITHERS. Mischievous charm and boundless energy.

When she was contracted, Withers ranked among the top child stars of the '30s, although she did not possess the glamour of Temple. Instead, the pudgy child actress made up for her lack of physical beauty by portraying girls with "mischievous charm and boundless energy."

She appeared in "Bright Eyes," "Ginger," "Little Miss Nobody" and "Pepper," films that capitalized on Withers' energy and mischief.

Like Temple and Margaret O'Brien, Withers did not make the smooth transition to adult roles, although she appeared in predictable teen flicks like "Her First Beau" and "High School, Shooting High."

Reigning moppet

By this time, Margaret O'Brien was already Hollywood's reigning moppet. Other erstwhile child performers like Elizabeth Taylor had joined the teenage ranks of Jane Powell and June Allyson. They competed for the debutante roles after Judy Garland had graduated to dramatic and musical fare.

Unfortunately, there were no parts for pudgy young women like Withers, so she retired in 1947. Thereafter, Jane became the subject of "Whatever happened to…" jokes.

Obviously hankering for the smell of the greasepaint and the roar of the crowd, she returned to television and the big screen by tackling character roles.

She made a fortune by playing "Josephine, The Plumber" in a long-running series of TV commercials. Thus, the erstwhile child actress exploited her distinctive traits to sell millions of cleanser bottles. All's well that ends well!

Her last big film was the 1956 epic, "Giant," where she was cast alongside Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and James Dean. Thereafter, she appeared in "The Right Approach" and "Captain Newman, M.D." in 1964.

Those who remember Withers' years in Tinseltown recall a spunky child who delightfully represented the tomboy who was about to become a young lady.

CRYSTAL AND MURRAY. Launched their careers on NBC's popular comedy show.

'Saturday Night Live' still kicking at 30

By Noelani Torre

THE YEAR 2005 MARKS THE end of a third decade and the beginning of a fourth for one of the longest-running shows on American television today.

Hailed by The New York Times as "still the most pervasive influence on the art of comedy in contemporary culture," "Saturday Night Live" has been airing since Oct. 11, 1975 and, with a recently renewed contract with NBC, is set to air until to 2012.

Aspirations

"We went in with no aspirations, no sense that this would go anywhere," says Chevy Chase, a member of the original '75 cast.

The show actually got roasted at first—critics described it as immature and sophomoric. Behind the scenes, creator Lorne Michaels had clashed with network executives over his vision for the show. (They expected bands in tuxedoes, but got blue jeans instead, which were still considered pretty *avant garde* for a variety show in those days.)

Incredibly exciting

"For me, it was an incredibly exciting time," Michaels says. "I was fearful of going on the air. I had never done a live television show."

The show's original format has essentially remained the same over the years. The basic concept was simple: A live comedy-variety show with a regular cast of relatively unknown comics, and a new celebrity host every week.

The show is just a collection of comedy skits—celebrity impersonations, running gags, parodies of current issues, spoofs of movies and TV shows—and performances by a featured musical group.

It was the brash, no-holds-barred attitude that made "SNL" more than your usual comedy-variety showcase.

Despite the initial bad reviews, the show went on to be lauded for being innovative and groundbreaking, and is now considered an institution. It has, in fact, become an integral part of the establishment that it once rebelled against.

Winner of 18 Emmy Awards and nominated for 80, the show is well-known for helping jumpstart the careers of well-known comedic stars.

Stardom

Chase was the first to attain stardom, but other members of the original cast such as Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi also gained fame—though the latter died tragically of a drug overdose in 1982.

Other big stars who started out on "SNL" include Billy Crystal, Chris Rock, Dana Carvey, Adam Sandler, Bill Murray, Mike Myers, Molly Shannon, Phil Hartman, and most recently, Will Ferrell and Jimmy Fallon.

Over the years, guest hosts have included Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore, Tom Hanks, the Rolling Stones, Sting, Ray Charles, O.J. Simpson, Hugh Hefner, Steve Martin, Jodie Foster, Raquel Welch, Danny De Vito, Joan Rivers, Jerry Lewis and Robin Williams. The list goes on!

Subversive

Even after 30 years, there's still nothing quite like "Saturday Night Live." Ratings-wise, it still reigns on late-night TV—and it's easy to see why. Smart, blessed with a talented cast, and subversive despite being an institution, "SNL" continues to be one of the biggest comedic influences around—and will no doubt go on being so in the years to come!

Cinemalaya 2006 off to a strong start

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST OCT. 14, THE BOARD OF Judges of the 2006 Cinemalaya film festival met at the Film Development Council of the Philippines office to choose the semi-finalist storylines in next year's alternative filmfest for short and full-length digital narrative productions.

The selection process was made difficult by the unusually large number of entries this year—232, compared to last year's 186!

But, the jurors persevered, and selected 35 synopses to be made into full-length screenplays for the second phase of the competition.

Digital features

Early next year, the selection committee will choose 10 finalists from the 34 scripts, which will then be produced into full-length digital features, each to be funded by a P500,000 seed grant from Tonyboy Cojuangco.

The completed films will be screened during the second Cinemalaya festival for new filmmakers next year. Hopes are high that the 2006 finalists will match or even exceed the quality and success of the first Cinemalaya movies, which were patronized and lauded by many viewers at screenings at the CCP, the UP Film Center and elsewhere.

Semi-finalists

The Cinemalaya 2006 semi-finalist synopses are: "Ang Dalawang Mrs. Hernandez" by Paul Morales, "Ang Huling Araw ng Linggo" by Nick Olanka, "Ang Ngipin ni Doreen" by Dado Lumibao and A. Ramos, "Ang Tanging Yaman" by Deans Habal, "Anino" by Cris Mojica, "Bakaw Boys" by Raymond Diamzon, "Donsol" by Adolf Alix Jr., "Go, Go, Sago" by Jhune Caiña, "Han-ayan" by Victor Artillaga;

"Isang Ikot ng Mundo sa Rotonda" by Byron Bryant, "Kumusta, Alicia" by Kristoffer Villarino, "Kusina" by Cenon Palomares, "Kwerdas" by Chie Floresca, "Larombata" by Khavn dela Cruz, "Lima, Ang Kakaibang Triangulo" by Arah Badayos, "Manila Day-Off" by Jose Tam, "Miss Educasyon" by Wilfredo Manalang, "Mga Anino sa Apuhap" by Domingo Lazam III, "Paano Mahalin ang Isang…" by Eduardo Roy Jr., "Pagdilim ng Paningin" by Pepper Marcelo;

"Pamana" by Jay Abello, "Pinakbet" by Melchor Escarcha, "Sa Paang Palay" by Vic Acedillo Jr. and Benjie Garcia, "Salimisim" by Rommel Tolentino, "Si Pisot" by Florida Bautista, "Silang mga Karaniwan" by Maricris Calilung, "Suso" by Senedy Que;

"Taglas at Tagsibol sa Panahon" by Cesar Hernando, "Taglugar" by Cirio Gibraltar, "Totong Hilot" by Dennis Teodosio and Tanangco, "Tripper Boy" by Jose Gutierrez, "Tulad ng Dati" by Michael Sandejas, "Vox Populi" by Dennis Marasigan and "White Linen" by Paolo Dy.

Hard at work

The judges have met most of the semi-finalists in person, and they are now hard at work writing the full screenplays for their entries, which they will submit soon.

The jurors will then read the semi-finalist screenplays, and select the 10 finalists that will be produced for showing in the second Cinemalaya filmfest in 2006.

The first festival this year was a resounding success, so we hope that Cinemalaya 2006 will at least match its heartening level of achievements.

Semi-finalists, do your utmost best!

'Iba ang Saya'

EVER GOTESCO MALLS' LATEST "Iba ang Saya" campaign was recently launched by way of simultaneous celebrations at Ever Ortigas Complex and Ever Commonwealth, featuring celebrity guests, Jolina Magdangal, Andrew E, and K and the Boxers.

MONTAGE

A three-day *Todo Bigat* sale was held at Ever Commonwealth, Ever Grand Central and Ever Manila Plaza.

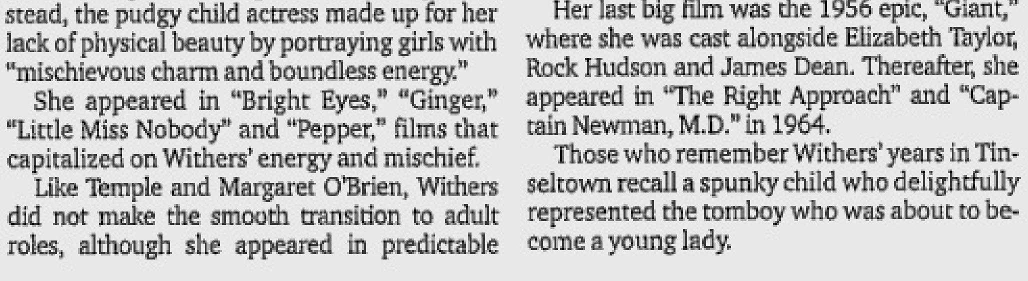
Ongoing until Nov. 2 is the fun treat, "Halloween Goes Mad at Ever Gotesco." Attractions include the MAD Science Show, Trick or Treat parade, Pumpkin Hunt, Creepy Photo Corner, Face Painting and Balloon Twisting.

Fun time with celebrities

Celebrities graced the recent grand opening of G-Box Amusement Center at the third level of Robinsons Place Manila. Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras enjoyed playing with toddlers at Play Box, and had loads of fun on the Carousel.

Janice de Belen, Sherilyn Reyes and other VIPs were the special guests at the opening of the Play Box Activity Center, a modern and convenient child-care facility.

G-Box has the latest video games, kiddie rides, computer gaming, carnival games and rides, as well as popular attractions like the Gymnasium, Centerstage and Video Rooms. Call 302-0102.


GBOX Mascot (right) at amusement center's Gymnasium with (from left) Dollie Buti, Andy Arevalo, Nilo Mapa, Jimmy Co and Steven Haw.

'Art Is Kool'

At 10:30 a.m. today, "Art Is Kool" on ABC-5 celebrates United Nations Day. Features include bonsai, totem poles and making an organizer from boxes and candy wrappers.

'KNN'

At 3 p.m. today on ABC-5, "Kabataan News Network" features children who work in the fishing industry, Unicef's recent regional ministerial consultation on children, and video piracy.

'Flightplan' sneak previews

Jodie Foster's latest starrer, the suspense thriller "Flightplan," will have sneak previews in selected theaters on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Foster plays the mother of a young girl who "disappears" on a flight from Berlin to New York. The film's regular run starts on Nov. 9.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Oct. 29 at 12:30 p.m., "The Matrix Reloaded." 4:45 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." 11:30 p.m., "Changing Lanes." Oct. 30 at 7:45 p.m., "Coming to America." 11:15 a.m., "Surviving Picasso." 6:30 p.m., "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas."

On Cinemax, Oct. 29 at 10:30 p.m., "Ordinary Decent Criminal." 3 a.m., "Pink Cadillac." Oct. 30 at 6:30 a.m., "The Last Hurrah." 5:30 p.m., "Fierce Creatures." 10:25 p.m., "Against the Ropes."

'Pasaway Ka Na, Sablay Ka Pa'

Mikey Arroyo flew back to the country in time for the screening of his latest comedy starrer, Cine Suerte's "Pasaway Ka Na, Sablay Ka Pa." The fun film directed by Willy Milan also features Ethel Booba, Salbakuta, Katrina Halili and John Apacible.

Sushmita Sen in talks over Hollywood film with Richard Gere

MUMBAI—RICHARD GERE AND former Miss Universe and Bollywood star, Sushmita Sen, are set to act together in a major Hollywood film, Sen's secretary, Neelam, said recently.

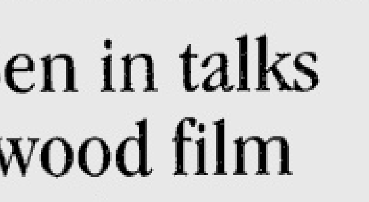
"Sushmita will be acting in a movie in which Richard Gere is also playing a big role," said Neelam.

She did not give details, but said Sen was in Singapore to negotiate details of the contract.

The Daily News and Analysis quoted Sen as confirming the role. "Yes, I won't deny it. But, things are not on paper yet," Sen said.

Details

"All I can say is that, it is a major Hollywood studio production, and I will be acting with Richard Gere. In another two months, I shall give you the details." The paper also quoted Sen as saying she had bagged a project with Robert De Niro.


SEN. To perform with Robert DeNiro?

Sen, the Miss Universe winner in 1994, is a leading actress in India's prolific Hindi-language film industry known as Bollywood, and is often compared with former Miss World and top Indian star, Aishwarya Rai.

Rai's latest international venture is a Roman sword-and-sandal epic, "The Last Legion," in which she sheds her angelic image to play a Byzantine warrior woman on horseback in a Dino De Laurentis and Raffaella De Laurentis production. *AFP*

Banderas . . .

From page A3-1

"D'Anothers," Sotto capitalizes on his likable, everyman persona, even when he plays a not-so-admirable protagonist.

The film's audience laps up its slapstick, physical humor and plays up the frenzied antics of its cartoonish characters. In visual gags (a corpse that squirts liquor like a fountain, etc.), the movie's better-than-average special effects are used to the hilt.

The humor may not be cerebral and the gags low-brow, but Sotto's unthreatening presence works for this kind of comedic drivel.

Kurleto is radiant and charming despite her hammy delivery and thespic shortcomings, but she wins points for trying her best to speak in endearingly crooked Tagalog. Who cares if the movie's play-for-laughs formula is worn and tattered, as long as it draws the big bucks, right? Oh, well.

Lennon song remains relevant 25 years after his death

LENNON. Hopeless dreamer.

PARIS—A SOLITARY WHITE piano at a thought-provoking John Lennon retrospective in Paris invites visitors to play the song that everyone knows but, in these times of terrorism and war, few seem to hear: "Imagine all the people living life in peace."

That Lennon, 25 years after he was murdered, still comes across as a hopeless dreamer is itself a sad indictment of how little progress the world has made toward achieving the lofty and, yes, perhaps utopian goal he expressed in his hit song.

Footage

Visit "John Lennon, Unfinished Music" at Paris' Cite de la Musique for the next eight months and watch footage of the ex-Beatle and Yoko Ono holding court at a bed-in for peace at Montreal's Queen Elizabeth Hotel in 1969, parlaying their fame into a cause long before Bono or Bob Geldof.

"Nobody's ever tried the 'peace' thing," a shaggy-looking Lennon said then, his round glasses framing intense eyes. "We are selling it like soap."

But, while he spoke of peace, John Winston Lennon seems to have rarely lived it himself: Born on Oct. 9, 1940 at Liverpool Maternity Hospital, when Nazi air raids regularly pummeled the port city in northwest England; he was gunned down on Dec. 8, 1980, outside his Dakota apartment building in New York. Violence bookended Lennon's 40 years.

His drug abuse, infidelities and "lost weekend" hedonism of the early 1970s are well-documented. And his turbulent formative years—being raised by his aunt Mimi after his parents separated; losing his mother, Julia, to a traffic accident—fed into his angst as an artist.

"I had a chip on my shoulder," Lennon said of his mother's death, "and it still comes out every now and then."

Exhibition

Lennon's English lilt is heard everywhere in recordings and film footage at the exhibition divided into two floors—one for Lennon's childhood and John's years with the Beatles, the other themed rooms for the latter period when he and Ono were simply "John and Yoko."

Curator Emma Lavigne said Lennon's widow lent 90 percent of the hundreds of exhibits that make up the show, leaving her with "holes in her apartment."

A 1966 pink, yellow and red Andy Warhol painting of Lennon, which Lavigne said usually hangs over Ono's fireplace, is exhibited above a standup Steinway he played when he composed "Double Fantasy."

Among other gems: Lennon's black 1963 Fender Telecaster with a worn fingerboard and rusty pickups; collages he made for other ex-Beatles, Ringo and George; a 10-minute film of a silent Central Park gathering by crowds mourning his death; a copy of Lennon's original "Imagine," three verses written on New York Hilton letterhead.

Lennon's cheeky, sometimes smutty and macabre humor and wordplay showed early in the "Daily Howl," a spoof newspaper of teenage doodling and musing he circulated at his Quarry Bank High School for Boys.

The weather report: "Yesterday it was wet—the rain did it."

, His headmaster's Christmas 1953 school report; "Shocking . . . There will be serious trouble ahead, unless he learns to behave himself," seems to foretell the rebel who later declared the Beatles to be more popular than Jesus, prompting some outraged fans to burn their 45s.

Hysterical fans

At Beatlemania's height, there were Beatles dolls, plastic figures, drinks, trays, watches, school rulers, 'Highest Quality' Beatles hair pomade, even silky knickers—all displayed at the exhibition.

Concert footage shows how tight and polished the Beatles were. But, "nobody heard anything. They were too busy tearing up each other," Lennon said of playing to hysterical fans.

In contrast to the rock 'n roll energy downstairs, the John and Yoko section is calmer and more reflective. One gets the sense of Lennon, the man, with imperfections—and with Ono as a muse, not of Lennon, the pop icon.

Deliberate effort

Lavigne said leaving a copy of "Imagine" on the white piano for visitors to play was a deliberate effort to make them revisit the song that otherwise "you might hear in a supermarket while doing your shopping."

"The message is still there. This song is still relevant," she said. "I wanted the exhibition to be as alive as possible, so we don't say to ourselves 'Lennon is in a museum.' I think John would have hated that!" *AP*

Fine viewing options on Cinemax

By Nestor U. Torre

CINEMAX IS SCREENING QUITE A NUMBER of interesting movies: **"A Soldier's Story,"** based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning play, investigates the murder of a black sergeant on his way back to base camp in Louisiana. The military attorney sent to investigate uncovers a hotbed of hatred and prejudice in unexpected places.

"Against the Ropes" stars Meg Ryan as Jackie Kallen, boxing's first female promoter. It portrays her endeavor to prove herself in the male-dominated, testosterone-laden world of boxing.

Oscar nominations

"Bonnie and Clyde." Clyde Barrow (Warren Beatty) and Bonnie Parker (Faye Dunaway) rob banks, kill people and terrorize the US southwest in the 1920s in this should-see movie that garnered a slew of Oscar nominations—from best actor to best picture.

"Confidence." An energetic and catchy tale about the world of scam artists, and the lengths and depths they go to pull off their next big heist. With Edward Burns, Dustin Hoffman and Andy Garcia.

"Empire of the Sun." Steven Spielberg's powerful saga about a British boy's harrowing survival amid World War II chaos in China. With Christian Bale and John Malkovich.

"Fierce Creatures." Kevin Kline plays a ruthless media mogul who buys a zoo in London. He forces the zoo director (John Cleese) to display only dangerous animals in order to boost ticket sales, resulting in side-splitting confusion and hilarious situations.

Shocking secret

"Fool for Love." Sam Shepherd and Kim Basinger share a shocking secret that bonds them together, yet drives them apart. Critics have praised their performances in this film, written by Shepard and directed by Golden Globe winner, Robert Altman.

"For Whom the Bell Tolls." This 1943 screen adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's classic tale is about an American mercenary (Gary Cooper) who joins a loyalist guerilla (Ingrid Bergman) and her group during the Spanish civil war.

"Giant." Set in Texas in the 1920s, this film takes its lead characters (played by Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean) through a number of decades, to dramatize the vagaries of love, money, power and ambition.

"House of Wax." In this 1953 horror classic, Vincent Price plays a gifted sculptor who employs a grisly technique; he steals corpses from the morgue, covers them in wax, and displays them.

"Introducing Dorothy Dandridge." Halle Berry plays Dandridge, whose rise to stardom was cursed by a beauty that opened doors, and a skin color that closed them. Berry's performance won both a Golden Globe and an Emmy for outstanding lead actress in 2000.

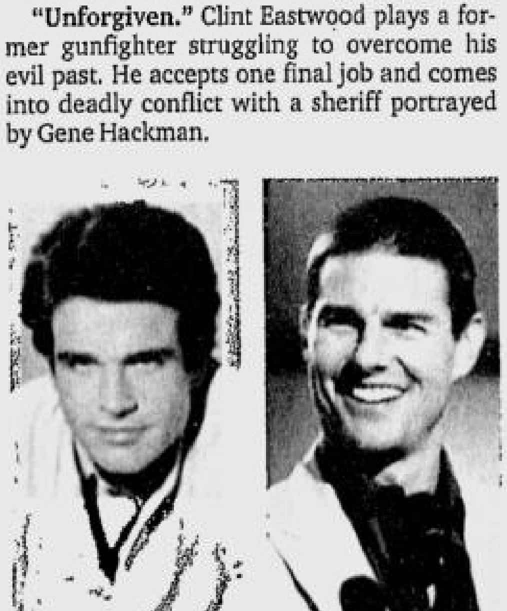
Maze of intrigue

"The Firm." A tale of youthful ambition caught in a maze of intrigue, starring Tom Cruise and Gene Hackman.

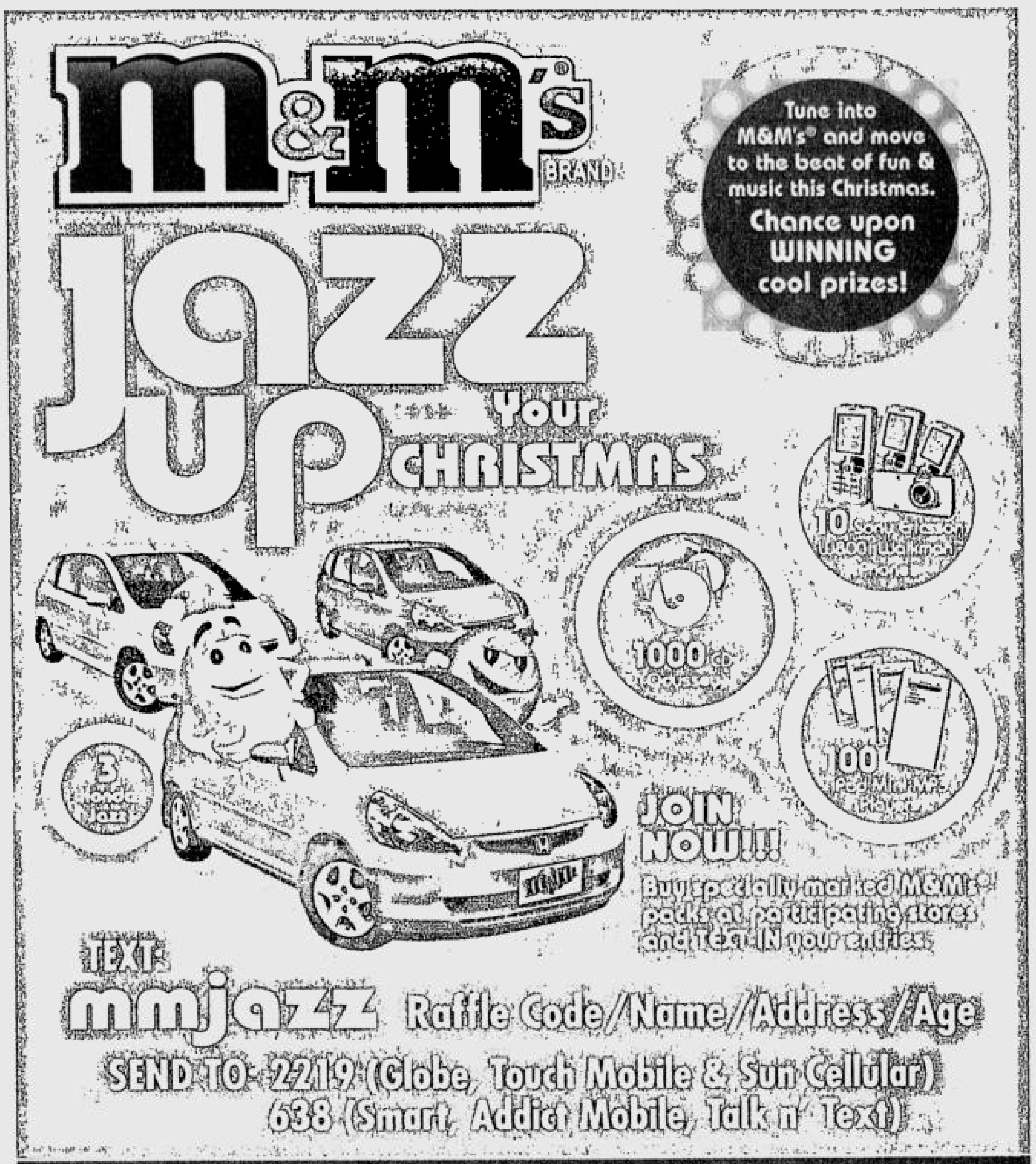
"The Great Race." Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis pit their skills at chivalry and reckless daring in a big auto race from New York to Paris.

"The Last Hurrah." John Ford's gripping portrait of the twilight years of a powerful politician topbills Spencer Tracey and Jeffrey Hunter.

"Unforgiven." Clint Eastwood plays a former gunfighter struggling to overcome his evil past. He accepts one final job and comes into deadly conflict with a sheriff portrayed by Gene Hackman.



BEATTY AND CRUISE. Topbilled "Bonnie and Clyde" and "The Firm," respectively.



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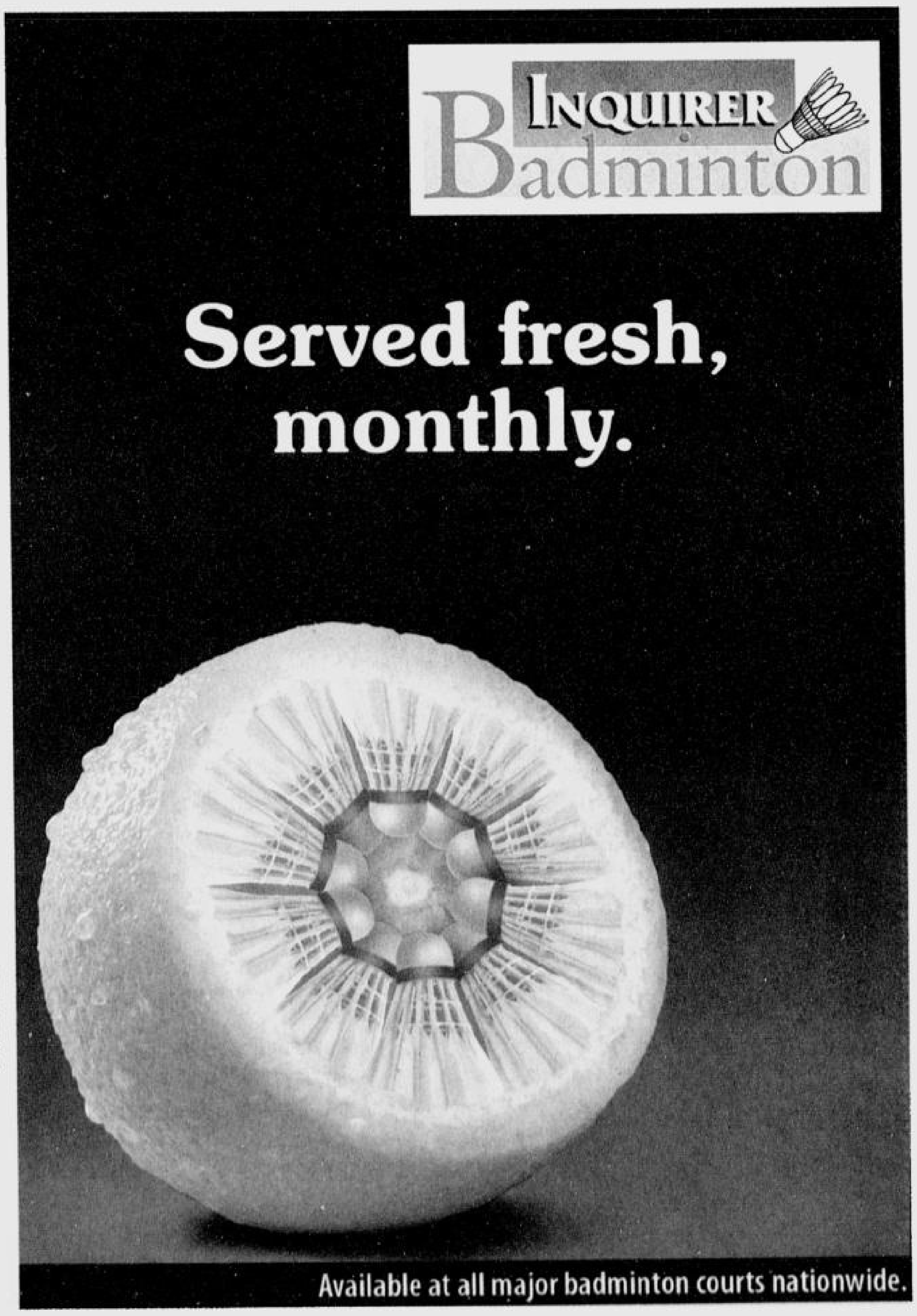

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PERRY AND KUDROW. Chandler throws a party, while Phoebe invites identical twin, Ursula, on "Friends."

Laughter and chills on Halloween

By Nestor U. Torre

STAR WORLD HAS WHIPPED up Halloween treats for viewers tomorrow, Oct. 30. Scream with laughter as you watch your favorite sitcom's special Halloween episodes:

At 12 noon, "Friends": It's a crazy time as Monica and Chandler (Courtney Cox and Matthew Perry, respectively) decide to throw a Halloween party, to which Ross plans to bring Mona. Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow) invites Ursula and her fiancé to the party, and Rachel starts writing checks when she runs out of candy.

Spooky evening

12:30 p.m., "8 Simple Rules": Paul seems to be the only one looking forward to a family Halloween, as Bridget, Kerry and Rory make plans to spend the spooky evening with their friends.

1 p.m., "The King of Queens": Doug decides to buy a pumpkin to get into the Halloween spirit, but as soon as Arthur sees it, he smashes it and banishes the celebration of Halloween.

Frustrated, Doug takes it upon himself to go all-out with decorations, and ends up scaring Arthur so badly that he nearly has a heart attack and ends up in the hospital.

1:30 p.m., "Whose Line Is It Anyway?": Monster-making. Things you don't want to hear in the dark. Inside the minds of slasher movie villains. Weird newscasters, cheap Halloween masks, witches and potions, fortunes and misfortunes. It's a spooky, crazy, anything-goes show as Ryan, Wayne, Colin, Greg and Drew Carey celebrate the hi-jinks of the season!

2 p.m., "The Simpsons" ; The best of spooky Simpsons episodes through the years, with Bart, Homer and Co.

8 p.m., "Peter Jennings' UFOs: Seeing Is Believing": Millions of people believe that UFOs exist and have visited Earth. For some, it's a belief that borders on religious conviction. Thousands in America, Europe, South America and Japan have reported contacts with alien beings, or having been abducted by aliens.

Thorough exploration

In a thorough exploration of fact and fiction, respected journalist, Peter Jennings, revisits the enduring mystery of the incident at Roswell, and looks into the strange stories of alien abductions and UFO sightings.

8 p.m., "World's Scariest Ghosts/ Haunted Houses Road Trip 1 & 2": Go around the world on a ghost hunt in these spine-tingling, shriek-inducing journeys. Relive stories of classical hauntings, old spirits and new spooks. And join in the chilling fun as the shows go in search of hints indoors, outdoors and in your head!

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MEDINA (left) with his father, Pen.

Ping Medina follows father's footsteps

By Rica Arevalo

WHEN "ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO Oliveros" is shown in theaters on Nov. 16, a new talent with fine acting genes will be seen on the screen aside from the film's outstanding lead, Nathan Lopez.

Ping Medina, 22, son of character actor, Pen Medina, plays *Kuya* Bogs in the award-winning movie produced by UFO Pictures.

Ping played the younger character of his dad in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Jose Rizal" when he was 13 years old. "Back then, I had no idea how to act, but I accepted the job because I thought it would be fun. My dad tried to workshop me, but I resisted. I didn't like the idea of being under the tutelage of my dad."

Biggest influence

But, he says his father is his biggest influence. "He guides me without meddling in my affairs, and I appreciate that. He's like a *barkada*. We talk about everything under the sun."

He adds, "One of the most important things he has taught me about acting is *gawin ko lang kung ano ang totoo*. It's always about the subtext, and about feeling and knowing what is 'real.'"

As *Kuya* Bogs, his character is the typical *Pinoy*. He never fails to see the humorous side of things. If you mess with his loved ones, he's ready to kill for them.

He shares, "Good thing I have friends who grew up in the streets, so I have a good idea of what it's like to be in their world. It's an entirely different social scenario, sad to say."

Challenge

His biggest challenge in "Maximo" is a breakdown scene in a prison cell. "Before this movie, I had never cried in front of a camera, so when it was time to shoot the scene, I was scared. But, it came out like magic—thanks to the people who fed me with the right motivation. *Ang sarap!*"

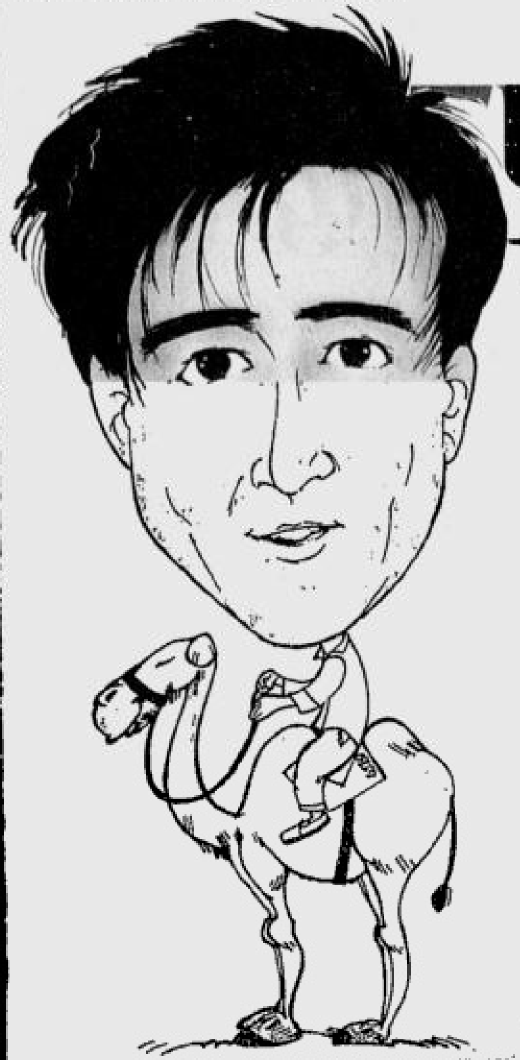
What was it like to work with Nathan? "I liked what he did in the film. Playing Maxi for his first lead role at that delicate age was no joke—especially for a straight boy," he gushes.

"Michiko Yamamoto wrote a wonderful script. The production was amazing! I always had a good feeling about the film, and I kind of knew it would go places."

True enough, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" recently received another accolade by winning in the best feature-film category at the ImagineNative Film Festival in Toronto!

LOPEZ AND MEDINA. Play brothers in "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

What now, Aga?


CARICATURE BY L.A. MISTADES

MUHLACH. Talent is both a gift and a responsibility.

By Nestor U. Torre

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT Aga Muhlach's new starrer, "Dubai," is a certified hit. It could even end up as one of the three most profitable local movies of 2005.

So, unlike many luminaries whose careers have gone *pffft* these past few years, Aga's stardom is secure, and he can continue to topbill his quota of one major project every year or two.

The bad news is, for a number of years now, Aga's reputation as a performing artist has been stagnating. People keep praising him as one of the best TV-film actors we've got, but the sad fact is, he's generally been coasting along on sheer reputation.

Success

On his weekly TV sitcom, he's still entertaining, but there's little that's fresh and innovative in his performances. And he's been surrounded with so many comedians and other actors that he can no longer claim sole or even principal ownership of his show's success.

In addition, he's getting on in years, but he still keeps playing it boyish despite his occasionally haggard look or added poundage.

In the movies, the problem is further underscored by the giant film screen, which enlarges and exaggerates physical flaws.

In addition, Aga's popularity as a film star in itself can be problematic, in the sense that it encourages him to play it safe in his choice of material and roles.

Similar projects

That's what happens when you make millions per film, and your movies' budgets are so huge that you can't risk commercial failure. So, instead of growing as an artist, the big star tends to select similar projects to reprise the successes of the past.

This is fine from the financial point of view, and Aga *has* played his commercial cards right, as shown by the prosperous life he lives.

But, he has proven in some of his previous performances that he's also an artist, so it's disheartening to see him playing it so safe of late.

Varied modes

As an artist matures, we expect him to develop his talent by attempting to portray different kinds of characters, or to go into more varied modes of acting.

Unfortunately, Aga has become so successful that he's painted himself into the tight corner of the romantic comedy-melodrama. It works for his career—but not for his artistry.

Who cares? Well, maybe Aga does. Early in his career ("Bagets," "Miguelito"), he turned in vital and exciting work as an actor. Now that he's financially secure, perhaps he could be of better service to his talent by thinking of quality for a change, instead of merely cinematic return on investment.

We feel we can share these cautionary thoughts because we've been in Aga's corner ever since he made his charismatic teen debut in "Bagets."

In the lurch

Even when his career was in the lurch, we defended him from detractors who snidely described him as a young has-been.

Aga weathered the many crises in his life and career—that's why he's on top now. But, talent is both a gift and a responsibility, and needs to be cherished as much as money in the bank.

Bacharach pens first lyrics of career

NEW YORK—IT COULD BE JUST WHAT the world needs now—Burt Bacharach writing lyrics!

BACHARACH. His children inspired him to speak up.

The legendary, 77-year-old composer has found his voice in a politically charged album, "At This Time," that features his first lyrics ever in a nearly 50-year career creating some of pop music's best-known love songs.

"You could say, 'How does a guy who has written love songs his entire life suddenly decide to rock the boat?,'" Bacharach says about the album.

Frustration

"I had to do it. The record is very personal to me," he said of his first solo album in 15 years. Challenged by his producer to take risks, Bacharach responded with songs set to hip-hop beats, with lyrics co-written with Tonio K. expressing nostalgia over bygone days and frustration with US political leaders.

Bacharach poured out catchy music for over 50 Top 40 hits. But, he had left the words to his collaborators, most notably Hal David and his former wife, Carole Bayer Sager.

With his children in mind, Bacharach said he was inspired to speak up.

"This time, I thought I had to speak lyrically as well as musically," he told Reuters. *Reuters*

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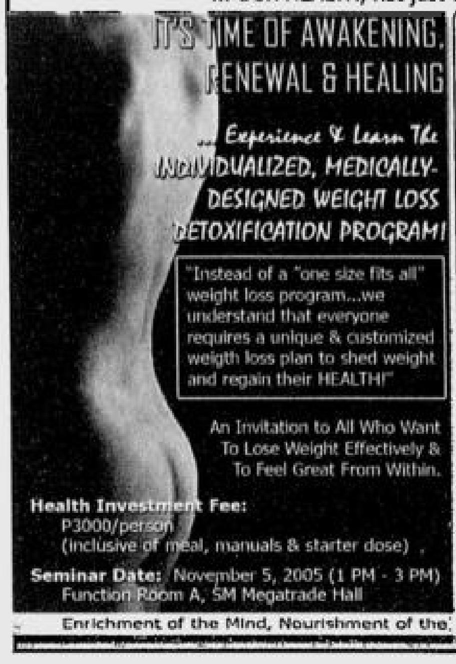
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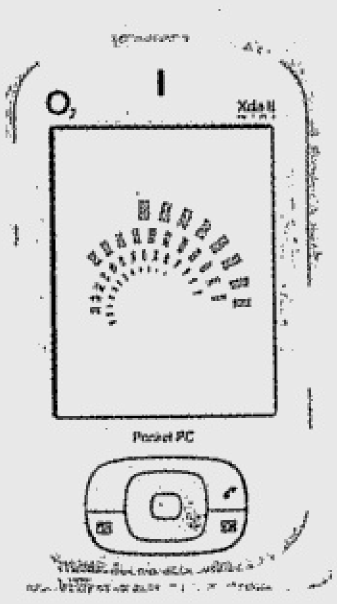
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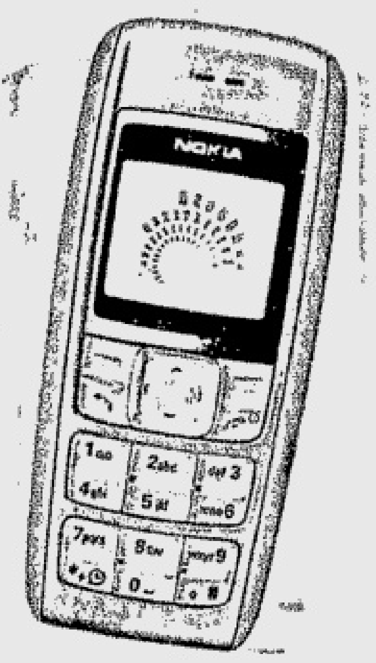
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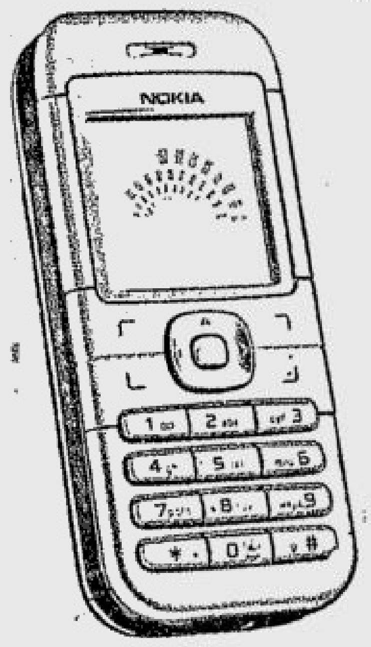
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Greta Garbo is back in the limelight

STOCKHOLM—A GIRL WITH slightly crooked teeth and a mass of dark hair piled on her head stares out uncertainly from a black-and-white photograph. She is dressed in what looks like a drab uniform, perhaps worn for work in a shop.

The picture, featured in a book in the vaults of a Swedish film archive, shows the girl who grew up to become the legendary Greta Garbo.

Born into poverty in a Stockholm suburb as Greta Gustafsson, Garbo came to hate the spotlight. But, the centenary of her birth on Sept. 18 has prompted new interest in one of the film world's most enigmatic figures.

Celebrity

Garbo, known as "The Swedish Sphinx," retired from the screen at age 36 while still in her prime and shied away from celebrity until her death in 1990 when he was 84.

As was the case when she was alive, the interest now focuses as much on her private life as on her work—why did she become a recluse? Was she gay or straight? Why did she retire so early?

Her great-nephew Scott Reisfield said Garbo wanted privacy.

But, he warned that people who interpreted her famous "I want to be alone" line from the 1932 film, "Grand Hotel," as a statement that defined her life had got it wrong.

"She wanted to have everyday interaction, and a certain anonymity makes you equal to the person you're talking to," Reisfield told Reuters from his home in Boulder, Colorado.

"She wanted to be just another person in the city doing what she did. Could she take advantage of her celebrity? Sure, there were times that she would, but for the most part, she didn't want to be put on this ivory tower."

Anniversary

To mark the anniversary, two new books on Garbo are being published, and a new documentary has been released. The United States and Sweden are also issuing stamps in her honor.

Reisfield, who in August published a book of Garbo's favorite studio portraits, praised the documentary by film historian Kevin Brownlow.

GARBO. Two books and a documentary.

"Garbo" has been shown on Turner Classic Movies, and will be screened in Sweden during a retrospective of her films. "If you see the person that was portrayed there, that is much closer to the way she was. She was a pretty savvy professional, and she knew what she was trying to do."

Family poverty meant young Garbo had to leave school to get a job, working first as a lather girl in a barber's job, and then, in a central Stockholm department store, which still exists.

She later went to drama school, where she met director Mauritz Stiller. He took her to Hollywood, where she became one of the most glamorous movie stars of the 1920s and 1930s, making the transition from silent films to talkies.

She retired from the screen in 1941 after making classics such as "Flesh and The Devil," "Ninotchka" and "Queen Christina" and after her last film, "Two-Faced Woman," flopped.

Departure

Her departure from film and seclusion during the decades leading up to her death has left plenty of room for speculation about the person behind the screen image.

Swedish author Tin Andersen-Axell, who published a book in January based on Garbo's letters to a drama school friend, Mimi Pollack, said it was the demands of stardom which turned a happy-go-lucky Swedish youngster into a depressed exile.

A letter in the Swedish Film Institute archive to a friend back home in the late 1920s suggests some ennui.

"There is nothing else to say except that I am tired, tired," she wrote after describing a lunch at MGM studios.

Many of the letters are signed "Gurra," a nickname for men called Gustav. It was very gender-bending, and led many people to speculate Garbo was a lesbian.

Andersen-Axell believed Pollack and Garbo were lovers. "I am certain of it," she said. Reisfield said he thought the letters showed the two women were close friends.

Retrospective

Ragnar Berthling of the Swedish Film Institute, which has the book of photographs charting her life, and is holding a retrospective of her films, said that for film critics, Garbo was one of the first modern women actors.

"She lived in an extremely patriarchal society, but she really stood up to all this. She made decisions for herself," he said. "She was one of the highest paid actors. She would have been like Madonna!"

Reuters

PARTICIPANTS in Miss Earth 2005 pageant party at Duet's Bistro.

'RockToBeer Fest'

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THERESA AND BOY ALVAREZ OF Sitio Filipino restaurant (located at The Podium in Ortigas Center) are the seasoned restaurateurs behind Terbo Buffet Concepts, a food and beverage concessionaire at the Asian Institute of Management.

Recently, Terbo hosted a sumptuous feast for the candidates of the Miss Earth pageant at the AIM Conference Center's Duet's Bistro. This special nook was transformed from a cozy corner for businessmen into a sizzling arena filled with beautiful women representing 50 countries.

Buffet

The Alvarez couple enjoys catering for parties like the recent "RockToBeerFest," which was attended by more than 500 guests. Theresa and Boy dressed up 77 food attendants, kitchen crew and bartenders in Bavarian costumes, and prepared a buffet consisting of German food.

* * *

The LRI Business Plaza will be observing its second anniversary by presenting "Lifestyle in Motion." The showcase will be designed by the LRI's in-store interior designers.

An exhibit featuring 20 photographs on "Celebrities Reading" will reveal a different side of celebrities.

Alice Erfe of Erfe's Designer Furnishing Shop teams up with Yannie del Corro to execute a study room *cum* library for former President Fidel V. Ramos. A lanai for Bantay-Bata's Gina Lopez will be designed by Tara Domingo and Pam Agabin of Diretso Design Furniture.

On the other hand, Kuh Ledesma's bedroom will be put together by Paolo and Sarah Castillo of Isa Casa Designer Furniture. Dottie Labao and Audi Salva of DSL Manufacturing will design a kitchen for Food Magazine editor, Nancy Reyes.

Nina Santamaria of Grupo Santamaria, and Mahal Amanda Adams of Imaje Designs will create a dining room for food writer Micahela Fenix, Via Mare's Glenda Barreto, and ABS CBN's Myrna Seguismundo.

Mata Padiernos of Origins Home Furniture and Derrick Dandan of Masterpice Furniture & Interiors will create Angel Aquino's living room.

"Lifestyle in Motion" runs from Nov. 17 to Dec. 8.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 899-1767

Sharon, Lea sing in UN album

By Ronald G. Mangubat

TRY TALKING TO TODAY'S youth about poverty and hunger, universal primary education, gender equality and child mortality. Chances are, most of them will yawn or ignore your boring and technical rants.

But, try using pop music and get the likes of Gary V, Martin Nievera, Sharon Cuneta, Lea Salonga and Kuh Ledesma to endorse your message, and you'll probably get instant attention.

Goals

This is exactly what the United Nations agency did in order to promote its eight-point Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The UN Country Team tapped Hit Productions and came up with "The MDG Album" titled "Tayo-Tayo Rin sa 2015" ("No One But Us in 2015").

Launched recently at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila, the MDG album contains eight songs.

CUNETA. Dramatic interpretation.

Twenty-four celebrity singers rendered their services pro bono, including the APO Hiking Society, Aiza Seguerra, Bayang Barrios, Christian Bautista, Sarah Geronimo, Jaya, Freddie Aguilar and Pops Fernandez.

The songs have been approved by the Kapisanan ng Mga Broadcasters sa Pilipinas (KBP) and will soon be aired on radio stations.

The album has serious messages, but doesn't cross over the didactic fence, because of its entertaining pop twist.

For example, "For a Better Life," with lyrics by Trina Belamide and music by Kristopherson Melecio, has Gary V singing about Goal No. 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. "...Gotta work together/We're running out of time, put an end to hunger/ take a step and work wonders."

Sounds rather heavy and idealistic? Not with Gary V's melodious voice, well-placed falsetto, and pop rendition.

Longing to study

Child singer Julia Abueva interprets Goal No. 2: Achieve universal primary education, through "Bata Pa Ako," a haunting, mellow song written by Chi Datu and Allan Feliciano. Using guitar as accompaniment, Abueva poignantly expresses a poor child's longing to study.

The next track, "Babae," zeroes in on gender equality and women's empowerment, and has Lea Salonga, Kuh Ledesma, Pops Fernandez, Sarah Geronimo and Bayang Barrios singing about and extolling the virtues and rights of women.

Poverty

Megastar Sharon Cuneta does a dramatic, lilting interpretation of a mother who lost her child due to poverty in "Kung Sana" (lyrics by Jingle Buena and music by Mike Villegas) in order to hammer home its message about the reduction of child mortality.

We have followed Cuneta's singing career through the years, and we must say this is one of her best renditions. Her voice sounds full and rested and she sang this particular piece with much feeling.

The UN's MDG album proves more than ever that pop music can be a potent vehicle for development, and that even technical messages can be "dressed up" to be cool and hip.

Focus on Basil Rathbone and Jack Elam

By Behn Cervantes

BASIL RATHBONE WAS CONsidered by many as the "American screen's finest villain."

He was also the most memorable Sherlock Holmes—a role he essayed in 14 films in the '40s. He was born to British parents in 1892 in South Africa. Before coming to Hollywood, he appeared in Shakespearean plays and other classic theatrical pieces in England.

Silent films

In the 1920s, he played romantic leads in silent films, but eventually graduated to playing villains.

While many matinee idols of the silent film era fell by the wayside after the introduction of sound, Rathbone rose to prominence because of his unique and distinctive voice, which complemented his urbane manners.

RATHBONE. Most memorable Sherlock Holmes.

Rathbone was a tall, slim villain, who seemed to have concocted his schemes in the most careful manner. Thus, he appeared even more dangerous. He was a perfect foil for the likes of Errol Flynn and Tyrone Power.

He was nominated for an Academy Award as best supporting actor for 1936's "Romeo and Juliet" starring Norma Shearer and Leslie Howard. In 1938, he was again nominated for his performance in "If I Were King." He passed away in 1967.

Antithesis

Rathbone's antithesis was Jack Elam, a former accountant who specialized in portraying slightly demented villains. If Rathbone was cerebral, Elam played his characters as mindless dimwits. Like Rathbone, he was tall and slim, but unlike the former, he had a plebeian American twang.

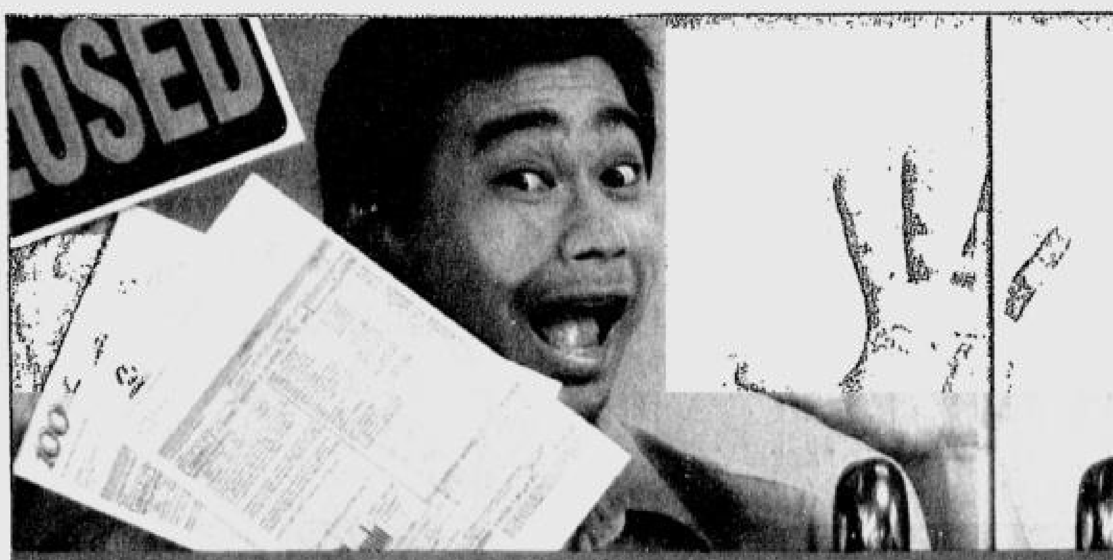
If Rathbone looked distinctive, Elam had an evil leer, as a result of a sightless eye brought about by a childhood fight. Because of his distinctly evil demeanor, he became one of Hollywood's major baddies in the '50s.

Interestingly, Jack Elam came to the Philippines in 1949 to appear with Tyrone Power in "An American Guerrilla in the Philippines," along with comedian Tom Ewell, who was to gain fame as the horny husband in "The Seven-Year Itch."

Scenes

As a young moviegoer, I always sat up when Basil Bathbone enacted his scenes. It was his look and his low, hissing voice that captured my attention. His mere presence signified the most dangerously thought-out schemes. His classical manner and speech were of pedigreed quality, but his intentions were of the lowest kind!

On the other hand, Jack Elam's "evil" was undisguised—when he held a gun or brandished a knife, you knew he was going to use it in the most sadistic manner!



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LAUREL AS HAYBING. He comes from one of the province's most illustrious families.

'Caysasay' tour starts in Batangas tomorrow

By Nestor U. Torre

THE CAST MEMBERS OF RYAN CAYABYAB'S HIT RELIGIOUS musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay," are excited about the start of their provincial tour in Balayan, Batangas on Sunday, Oct. 30. They have come to love the musical, and treasure its vivid and inspiring message of hope and healing.

They are especially thrilled about their Oct. 30 performance because it's taking place in Batangas, the province where the Virgin of Caysasay's spiritual and healing intercessions started taking place four centuries ago, and continue up to present times.

Noteworthy

Also noteworthy is the fact that composer Ryan Cayabyab's family hails from Balayan, as does the clan of Lorenz Martinez, who plays the key role of Juan Maningcad, the fisherman who found the image of the Virgin in the 16th century.

Most auspiciously of all, the male lead role of Haybing is being played by Cocoy Laurel, who belongs to one of Batangas' most illustrious families.

Other lead roles are played by Ivy Violan, Nicole David, Cheloy Dans, Lou Veloso, Andy Bais, Jane Diaz and Albert Jimenez.

Another unique aspect of the musical is the fact that it fields a wide range of talents, not just in terms of diverse performing abilities, but also in their ages.

Quite literally, the members of the cast are as young as seven years old (child star Myka), to the esteemed visual artist, Cheloy Dans, who's in her 70s. In the CCP run of the musical earlier this year, Cheloy impressed audiences with her other talents as actress and singer.

Despite their wide range in terms of age, the show's cast members work well together, and have bonded as a theatrical family motivated to come up with the best production possible. Thus, they readily agreed to go up to Balayan two days before their performance, to rehearse the production extensively at its slated venue, the CAP Auditorium.

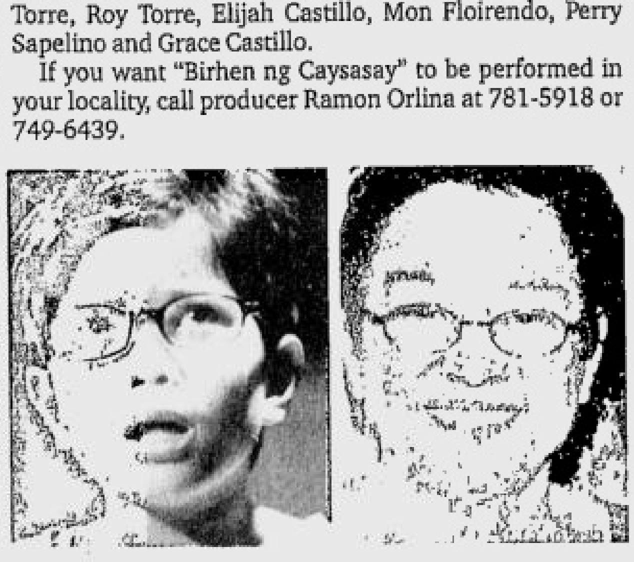
Devotees

Theater lovers and devotees in Batangas and adjoining provinces who want to see the show can call Baby at 043 2114-252 or 0917 628-0626.

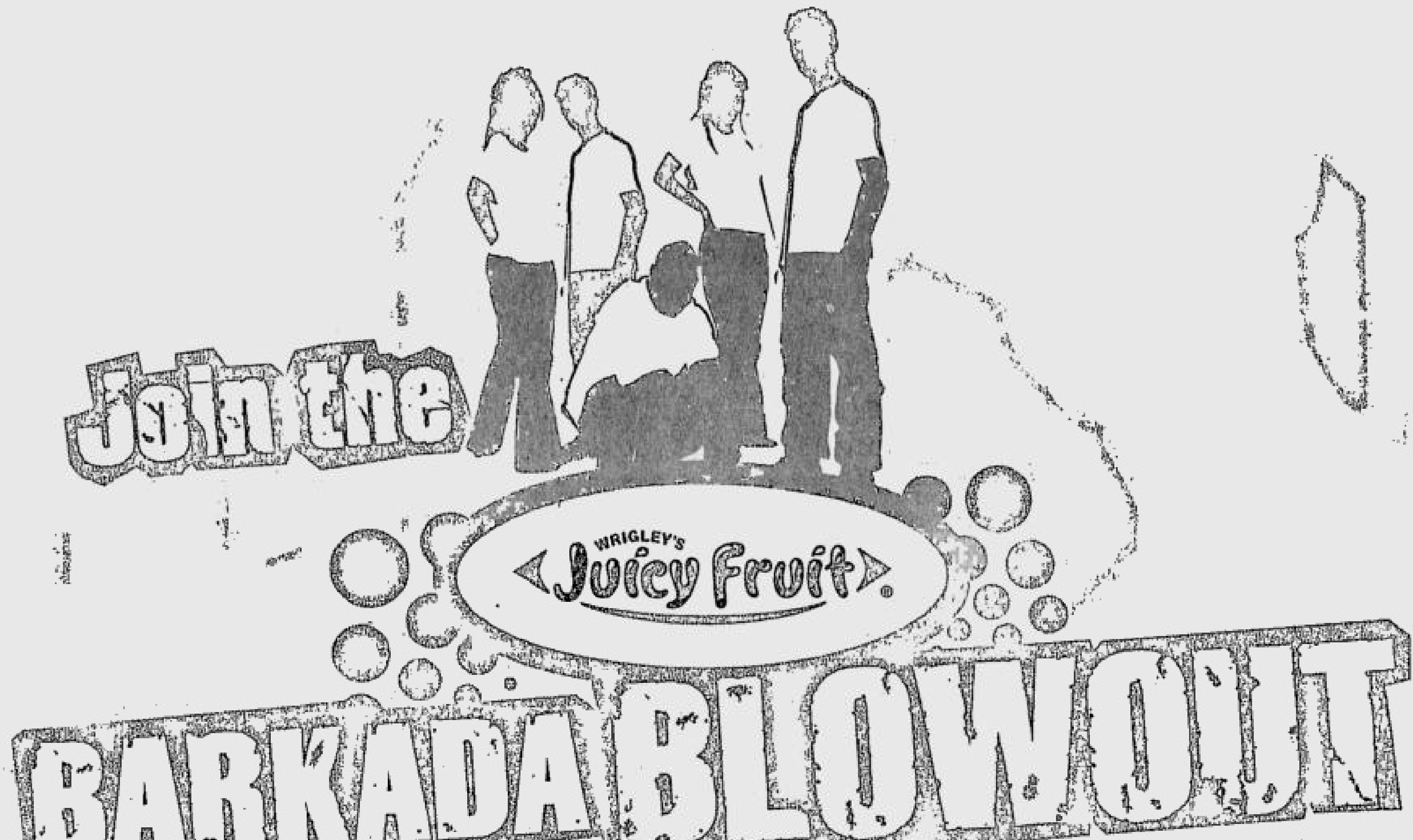
The beauty and power of "Birhen ng Caysasay" are further enhanced by the lyrics penned by Rito Asilo and Noelani Torre, Leo Rialp's sets, and the musical direction and arrangements of Jun Murillo.

The musical's other cast members are Nadja Matining, Karla Pambid, Jonas Santos, Marlon Capati, Roychelle Torre, Roy Torre, Elijah Castillo, Mon Floirendo, Perry Sapelino and Grace Castillo.

If you want "Birhen ng Caysasay" to be performed in your locality, call producer Ramon Orlina at 781-5918 or 749-6439.



MYKA AND CHELOY. Lead performers of popular musical include seven-year-old stage moppet and esteemed seventysomething visual artist, respectively.



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- He or she must have a barkada comprised of 4 members aged 13-18.
- He or she must be of sound mind and body

c) Participants should buy a Juicy Fruit multipack in leading supermarkets, groceries and convenience stores, or a Juicy Fruit bag in leading supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, schools, malls and other redemption areas to get the inserted (if multipack) or redeemed (if bag) Gimik Card which has a unique code needed in order to participate in the promo.
d) To join, text JUICY REG, the desired dream Barkada Blowout, Gimik Card code, complete name, complete address and date of birth to 2966 using the following format: (Codes are located at the Upper Right Hand corner of the Juicy Fruit Gimik Card) JUICY REG <barkada blowout >/<Gimik Card code>/<complete name>/<complete address>/<birthdate(mmddyy)>
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e) Participants can choose only ONE Barkada Blowout upon registration. Every succeeding code that she/he will send will be automatically tagged on the Barkada Blowout she/he texted upon registration.
f) One code is equivalent to (1) raffle entry.
g) A code can be texted a maximum of 5 times using different SIM numbers. As long as it's a different SIM, it's considered a valid entry.
h) For all the subsequent entries, just text the following syntax to 2966: JUICY <code>. Example: JUICY SLR842
i) For Smart and Globe subscribers, each successful text costs P2.50. For Sun Cellular Subscribers, each successful text costs P2.00
j) A confirmation message will be sent after each entry has been registered. The confirmation message will include the participant's earned entries and total number of entries for the whole promo period.
k) Winners will be drawn electronically via randomizer for the preliminary draws and grand draw.
l) First preliminary draw will be held on November 11, 2005 which will be announced via a winners ad in a leading newspaper. Winners of the first preliminary draw are no longer qualified for the 2nd preliminary draw but are still valid for the grand draw. No participant is allowed to win more than one prize during the preliminary draws. In the event that a participant was drawn twice on the same draw, she/he will receive the prize with a higher value.
m) The second preliminary draw will be scheduled on November 25, 2005. Winners will also be announced via a winner's print ad in a leading newspaper. Winners of 2nd preliminary draw are still qualified for the grand draw.
n) The Grand Draw will be held on December 2, 2005. The names will be announced in SOP Gigsters on Dec. 04, 2005. A total of ten (10) winners will be drawn to enjoy a weekend of fun, adventure and challenges in Subic on December 17, 2005. The 10 winners automatically make their own barkadas (4 friends per winner, ages 13-18) participants in the weekend adventure challenge and will compete for their dream Barkada Blowout. Winners will be allowed to bring two (2) chaperones to both the Subic Challenge & the Grand Barkada Blowout. If the winner would like to bring additional chaperones, then he/she will shoulder the expense. For the grand draw, a total of ten (10) winners aged 13-18 will be drawn from all over the country.
o) No participant is allowed to win twice in the Grand Draw. The first and second preliminary draws and the Grand Draw will be held in the presence of a BFAD Representative, Wrigley Philippines Inc. representative, Y&R representative and Buy N Text representative at the office of Buy N Text Corporation, 2nd floor JS Gatsano Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City (Subject to change depending on the request of other parties).
p) Participants can also text any of the following keywords to 2966 for inquiries:
a. JUICY ENTRIES - to inquire about the most updated total number of entries
b. JUICY FRUIT - to inquire about the promo
c. JUICY HELP - to know the list of other commands
q) All decisions of Wrigley Philippines Inc. and its agents in all matters relating to the selection of participants are final. In joining the 2005 Juicy Fruit Barkada Blowout, participants agree to be bound by these Official Rules, and by all decisions of Wrigley Philippines Inc.
r) These terms and conditions are subject to any relevant law, government direction and regulation. The program will be void where prohibited or restricted by law. Venue of any action arising under this program shall be brought solely to the proper court of Makati City, all other available venues of suit being waived.
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- Employees of Wrigley Philippines Inc., its affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotions agencies, working staff of the 2005 Juicy Fruit Barkada Blowout and companies involved in the production of the program materials, their agents, as well as their respective relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity, are not eligible to participate in the program.
3. Disqualified Entries
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Ex. No name, no address, or no answer (please refer to promo mechanics which states: All information indicated must be complete for entry to be considered valid.)
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4. Notification/Verification of Winners
- All winners from preliminary draws and grand draw will be sent telegrams and will be notified via phone call to provide them with details on how to claim the prize.
- During the verification process, all winners are required to submit the following:
a) Valid ID
b) Winning proof of purchase: Authentic Gimik Card with the correct code still intact and readable
c) Birth Certificate (for grand draw winners)
d) Proof of purchase (empty bag or multipack)
e) Sim Card/Cellphone Number used to join the Juicy Fruit Barkada Blowout
- Failure to comply with the requirements within the period prescribed by BFAD will be disqualified and the prize will be forfeited.
- All winners below 18 years of age need to be with their legal guardian to claim their prize. Both the minor and the parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that he/she is the legal guardian of the minor.
- Additional requirements for Grand Draw winners:
Prior to participating in the 2005 Juicy Fruit Barkada Blowout, all participants will be required to execute or furnish such documentation as Wrigley Philippines Inc. may require, including but not limited to good health report, complete liability release, indemnification and waiver, parental consent if below 18 years old, exclusivity contract and complete publicity release and undertaking. They must also undergo and pass a medical examination to be conducted by a Wrigley Philippines Inc. appointed physician.
- Expenses which may arise from securing the necessary travel documents for the Barkada Blowout shall be paid for by the winner and his/her barkada.
5. Redemption of Prizes
a) All winners will be notified via mail and phone call by a Y&R Philippines representative. For winners using SMART SIM cards, call out will be done by SMART through their 7777 access number. The names of all winners will be published in one of the leading national newspapers on or before December 9, 2005. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names in the winner's ad. Winners will also be notified by registered mail as to where and when they can claim their respective prizes.
b) For the preliminary draw winners, a proof of purchase (empty bag or multipack), the authentic Juicy Fruit Gimik Card, Sim Card/Cellphone Number used to join the Juicy Fruit Barkada Blowout and two (2) legally acceptable evidences of identification (such as voter's ID, company ID, passport, driver's license, birth certificate/ certified true copy) must be submitted to collect the prize won.
c) In the event that he/she is unable to present valid identification, he/she must be able to submit an affidavit executed by a local community official in the winner's place or residence to verify and establish the winner's identity.
d) In cases where the winner cannot personally claim his/her prize, she can send a representative on his/her behalf. The representative should present a letter of authorization prepared and signed by the winner. This should be submitted with the registered mail sent to the winner by Wrigley Philippines, Inc. and two (2) legally acceptable ID's of the winner. The representative should also bring two (2) original and legally acceptable documents to prove his/her identity.
e) Grand Draw winners will be notified of their departure schedule for the Subic Adventure Challenge.
6. Terms and Conditions:
- Promo Period: October 15, 2005 -December 2, 2005
- Only text entries sent on October 15, 2005 to December 2, 2005 (before 12:00 noon of Dec. 2) will be considered.
This promo is open to all Globe, Smart and Sun Mobile subscribers.

For more information you may call the Juicy Fruit Barkada Blowout HOTLINE at 6313067 or you may log on to www.juicyfruit.com.ph

Per DOH-BFAD number 1135, series of 2005.

'Di mo na kailangang mag-withdraw para mag-shopping!

'Wag nang mag-withdraw ng cash na pang-shopping. Diretso na agad sa mall at mamili gamit ang iyong BancNet ATM card. Good as cash payments na 'yun. Mabilis, simple at sigurado pa. At walang extra fees or charges. Kaya kung magsho-shopping, i-BancNet mo!

BancNet
Pay Bills. Buy Things. Transfer Funds.
www.bancnetonline.com

Super SM Hypermarket Opens in Valenzuela

Super SM Hypermarket is opening its doors to residents of Valenzuela and neighboring near North communities.

Considered the fastest growing hypermarket chain in the country today, Super SM Hypermarket combines the convenience of one-stop shopping with an impressively varied mix of general merchandise, hefty discount offers and unbeatable promotional events. This combination has redefined the concept of hypermarket shopping as practiced in the Philippine retailing environment.

In addition to its newly opened Valenzuela branch along McArthur Highway, Bgy. Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, Super SM also has branches in SM Supercenter Sucat, SM City Bicutan and SM City Marilao. More branches are due to open soon in strategic locations in the Greater Metro Manila area.

Super Choices

Apart from grocery items, Super SM also offers general merchandise for women, men, children and infants apparel, shoes and accessories. Housewares, furniture, appliances, audio and video equipment, sporting goods, stationery and hardware items are also available.

Another favorite destination at Super SM Hypermarket is Bake-Off, the bakery section where shoppers can get oven-fresh breads and pastries. Also popular are savory rotisserie chicken offerings that are sure to fill up every shopper's craving for juicy treats. On the other hand, Super SM's food carts showcase native delicacies like bibingka,putobumbong, maja blanca, cassava cake and fresh lumpia.

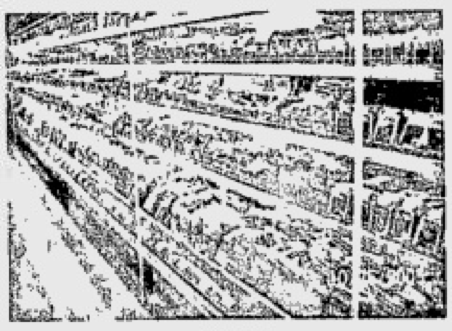
Super Prices

Super SM values customer satisfaction. That's why the needs, wants and demands of the shopping public remains on top of its priorities. And like the other SM affiliates, the company keeps everything to be competitively priced. Discounts from bi-monthly mailers, value packs and other promos definitely add value for the customer's money.

Super Promos

Now on its fourth year, "Shop 'n Win" promo gives shoppers a chance to win P10,000 daily or P175,000 in the monthly draws or a whooping P2 Million in the grand draw. A minimum purchase of P500 entitles shoppers to one(1) raffle coupon. Shoppers can also triple their chances of winning for every purchase of sponsors' products. To date, there are over sixty-five (65) participating sponsors that are more than ready to give support in the years to come. Apart from "Shop 'n Win", Super SM also boast of its "Big Shoppers, Win More" roulette game. Every P2,000 purchase, inclusive of two sponsors product entitle shoppers to play a series of games with exciting instant prizes at stake.

At Super SM, one cannot only shop, have fun and win, but also discover new culinary skills with its "Super Chefs, Super Treats" cooking activity. Shoppers can learn cooking and baking from master chefs with helpful tips on starting a food business.

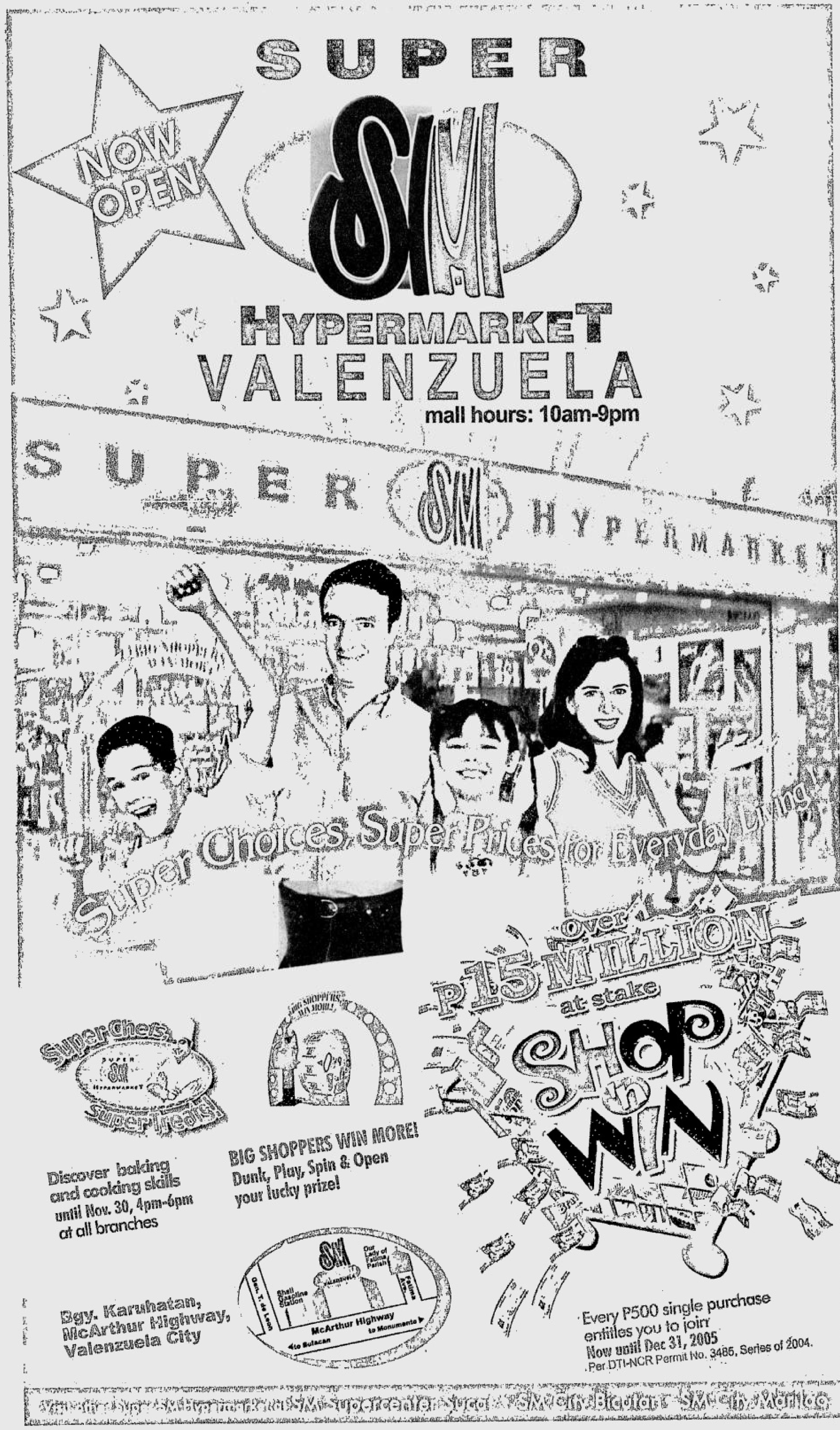


Super Shopping Experience

Each Super SM Hypermarket branch is designed for total shopping convenience - spacious, well-lit aisles, customer-friendly merchandise display, efficient check-out service and walkalators where shoppers can wheel their purchases and shopping carts straight to the covered parking area.

Experience this kind of super shopping at our branches at SM Supercenter Sucat, SM City Bicutan, SM City Marilao, and our newest branch at SM Supercenter Valenzuela.

Watch out for Super SM Hypermarket branches soon to open in Molino (Cavite), SM Mall of Asia and other SM Supermalls.



mall hours: 10am-9pm

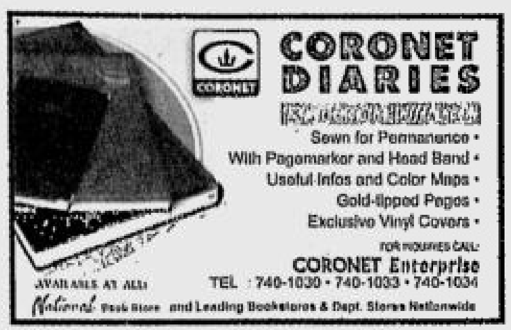
Discover baking and cooking skills until Nov. 30, 4pm-6pm at all branches

BIG SHOPPERS WIN MORE!
Dunk, Play, Spin & Open your lucky prize!

Bgy. Karuhatan,
McArthur Highway,
Valenzuela City

Every P500 single purchase entitles you to join
Now until Dec 31, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3485, Series of 2004.

Visit the Super SM Hypermarket at SM Supercenter Sucat • SM City Bicutan • SM City Marilao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Laban, laban sa Petron Rev-X!
X-pert sa makina, X-tra ang kita.

October inflation seen at 6.5%

Sustains downtrend since June

By Doris C. Dumlao

AVERAGE CONSUMER PRICES in the Philippines likely rose by 6.5-7 percent in October from a year ago, sustaining a downtrend seen since June, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The slowdown in the inflation rate against the annual rate of 7 percent in September was made possible by stabilizing food prices even as global oil prices remained high, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the inflation rate this year would not be significantly affected by the expanded value-added tax, especially since the implementation of the new tax measure had been delayed and would apply only in the last two months of 2005.

He added that benign food prices particularly of rice, the country's main staple, would continue to drive down inflation for the rest of the year.

"Rice is in abundant supply. October is the beginning of the harvest season and the NFA (National Food Authority) continues to import rice from Thailand, Myanmar and Vietman to make sure that when there are adverse weather conditions in the next four months, we'll have stable supply," Guinigundo said.

He said some non-food consumer prices were also easing and even fuel pump prices have not risen as fast as those seen in the past months.

But Guinigundo warned that the inflation rate would spike up again in the first half of the year with the full implementation of the VAT.

The main risks to inflation still included the runaway oil prices, the VAT, the second-round effect of supply shocks on demand, rising inflation expectations and strong growth in do-

OCTOBER / A2

HSBC taps lucrative remittance sector

BRITISH BANKING GIANT HSBC Ltd. has ventured into the lucrative remittance business in the Philippines, offering cheaper cash transfer costs plus a way to channel funds from overseas Filipino workers to microbusinesses.

In a press briefing yesterday, HSBC announced its team-up with one of the world's leading microfinance networks, Opportunity International UK, to lower the cost of sending money and linking the flow of funds to microfinancing.

HSBC and Opportunity launched the "Opportunity Card," a remittance product using the Internet and automated teller machines (ATMs), that is initially available to Filipinos in the United States. By next year, HSBC plans to expand the service to the large Filipino communities in Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates.

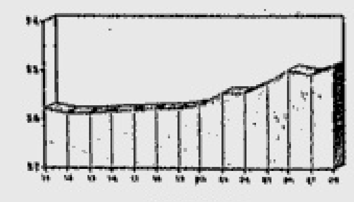
"The issue at present is that it is expensive to send money through secure channels, with fees averaging between 13-20 percent (of remittance amount). The Opportunity Card will mean that families and dependents will receive a much greater proportion of that money," said David Coates, CEO of Opportunity.

Under this service, the re-

TITLE/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱54.94 = $

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2005

¥115.18 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2005

GOLD: $474.10-474.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 28, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.97% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.97 PERCENT higher yesterday, extending gains to a fourth day and bucking a weak regional performance on support for selected blue

SHARES/ B2

ROAD SAFETY: Our lives depend on it
TYPICAL CHILD SAFETY SEAT
GET THE RIGHT ONE WITH EVERY FORD AND MAZDA

PLUS FOR EVERY VEHICLE SOLD, FORD GROUP PHILIPPINES SETS ASIDE ₱1,000 TO THE FORD ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM.
UNDER THIS INITIATIVE, FORD CARRIES OUT ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS LIKE THIS FREE CHILD SAFETY SEAT OFFER.
Ford
mazda
apply. V your Ford or Mazda dealers for details. Promo runs until December 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permi 2474. Series of 2005

MAZDA3 LEADS IN RETAIL SALES
Dominates 2.0L sedan class

September was another good month of retail sales for the Mazda3 as it led the 2.0L segment with a market share of 69%, as reported in the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturer's of the Philippines Inc. (CAMPI) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA). This is made even more significant as these results show the Mazda3 already prevailing over the 2.0L category for more than half of 2005.

Since its launch in August 2004, the Mazda3 was looked upon with excitement by car enthusiasts and admired for its aggressive styling, interior comfort and ergonomics, and superior drive dynamics-qualities that may appeal to customers on different levels, making the Mazda3 a well-designed vehicle that is fun to drive. This spirited vehicle is emotion in motion, or that unforgettable "childhood joy of being in motion", which is the underlying appeal that hooks the driver to the car.

Unique for its unifying European and Japanese notes, the Mazda3 has the Euro dimensions and functionality plus Japanese technology and design executions that make it a very sophisticated car.

The Mazda3 2.0L provides for a lively drive with an MZR, I-4, DOHC, 16-valve engine that provides the necessary torque, coupled with its 4-speed Electronic Automatic Transmission with "Activematic" that allows you to enjoy a manual drive when needed, and the Electronic Hydraulic Power Assist Steering (EHPAS) system ensures that power assistance feels consistently natural in diverse driving conditions.

The styling accents on the Mazda3 makes it a looker. Aggressive front and rear bumpers, 17 inch Aluminum Alloy rims, a lip-type rear spoiler, and smoked tail lamps give it a sporty appearance.

All these features would understandably make one want to accelerate and live up to its looks, careful of passenger and driver protection the Mazda3 has been specified with safety features that keep one secure in a Mazda3. The Mazda Advanced Impact Distribution and Absorption System (MAIDAS) gives protection from impact forces in all directions. The outstanding protection offered by the body helps to give real peace of mind.

While details such as the tilt and telescopic-adjustable steering wheel, the driver-side lumbar support and height adjustable driver seat, and the whiplash-reducing headrest answer interior comfort and ergonomics.

The Mazda3 also comes in the 1.6L class category.

Visit any of these Mazda dealerships to check out the Mazda3: Mazda Alabang, Mazda Quezon Avenue, and Mazda Greenhills.

ADVT

Atlas unit eyes IPO for mine rehab

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING and Development Corp. is planning to to hold an initial public offering of its subsidiary, Carmen Copper Corp., to raise part of the $170 million needed to revive its copper mine in Cebu.

According to an industry leader during a recent mining forum at the Philippine Stock Exchange, the offering of shares may be held in London possibly next year.

Part of the proceeds of the proposed offering would finance the reopening of the Toledo mines in Cebu. A mudslide, on top of low world copper prices and huge debts, prompted Atlas to close the mine in 1994.

Atlas is bent on rebuilding its mines in Toledo City and developing its other copper assets through its unit, Carmen Copper. The Atlas Group also plans to list Carmen Copper on the local and international stock exchanges early next year, a company official said.

Dow Jones earlier reported that Atlas was in talks with five copper smelters for a possible offtake agreement on its Toledo mine.

Cutfield Freeman & Co., a London-based corporate advisory firm, has been appointed to help Atlas in finding a smelter-partner, said Rodrigo Cal, assistant vice president of the mining company.

An offtake agreement will allow the smelter firm to procure all of Atlas' copper output from its Toledo mine in exchange for equity.

BPI's Q3 net up 14%

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES ISlands yesterday reported that its net earnings grew 14 percent to P2 billion in the third quarter from P1.8 billion in the same period last year.

The country's second largest bank said in a statement that from January to September, BPI's net income grew 20 percent to P6.3 billion.

The third quarter performance included the earnings of its new acquisition, Prudential Bank. Revenues also rose 21 percent.

Loss provisions for the third quarter was P1.1 billion, P780 million more than the previous year. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

All of fame

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

YOU MAY NOT CARE ABOUT awards, but business groups hand them out—each and every year, crisis or no crisis—to nobody but themselves, in humble recognition of their own supreme sacrifice to attain noble goals in the field of money-making.

None of the awards however captures the corporate executive or the entrepreneur at their best in their free personal time.

Really, they give out such prestigious awards as "Management Man of the Year" or "Entrepreneur of the Year" or "Government Punching Bag of the Year."

Still, they never thought of bestowing recognition for the year's best performance as executives and businessmen in, say, "Bar Hopping on Burgos Street" or "Womanizing" or "Beauty Contestant Chasing."

That's why the CEO and president of HSBC in the Philippines, a British national named Warner Manning, who swears to have never set foot on places of ill repute along Burgos Street in Makati, cannot expect cheap trophies for punishing himself for charity.

* * *

HSBC is of course the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp., one of the oldest foreign banks in this country. It set up shop here way back even before your favorite mother-in-law was born. That long ago!

HSBC here dates back to the Spanish era although, according to our usually reliable sources—i.e., from the bank's corporate communications unit—Warner is really not that old.

In fact, he is young enough to finish a 15-kilometer run for charity, which he did last year, running the stretch from Intramuros in Manila to the Fort in Makati, or somewhere near Makati, which is probably this mythical lost city of Taguig.

Anyway, for enduring the punishment for worthy causes of his, Warner collected on some P800,000 worth of pledges from friends and clients, who basically bet fame and fortune that Warner would not finish the run.

In Warner's charity run last year—dubbed "Tree-athlon," because part of the money would go to the environmental care for the watershed of La Mesa dam—he said he would pay for the P800,000 in pledges himself if he as much as stopped a meter from the end line.

Next year, as a follow up to the Tree-athlon, Warner will do other feats of physical endurance—the real triathlon of swimming, running and cycling.

The same rule applies: He will pay for your pledges if he fails to finish the race.

So hurry, don't miss the chance to get back at him for finishing the 15-K run last year!

Me, I am also putting my own money on a side bet. And that is, Warner will even win the race. I know he is undergoing serious training.

Besides, under the rules, even if he finishes the endurance race, as he did the 15-K last year with plenty of time to spare, he must contribute personally an equivalent of 10 percent of the total pledges.

And the man is not even a professional athlete.

In his younger days in school, he might have played the toughest game on the planet called rugby, but that would have to be around 25 years and 30 lb. ago.

So, is this guy a masochist, a lunatic, or what?

* * *

FOR answers, you (meaning, actually, "I") really have to look a little bit deeper into the man.

He simply does things differently from other men of position, with power and prestige—plus, of course, hefty salaries.

Everybody in HSBC must, for instance call him "Warner," or else…

Well, under the Warner rule, each time a person in HSBC calls any of the bosses "boss," or address them as "Mr." or "Ms," or use the standard greeting of HSBC credit-card-subscriber solicitors, which is "good morning, ma'am/sir," that person would have to cough up P1.

For HSBC president and CEO Warner G N Manning, it's "Warner," period.

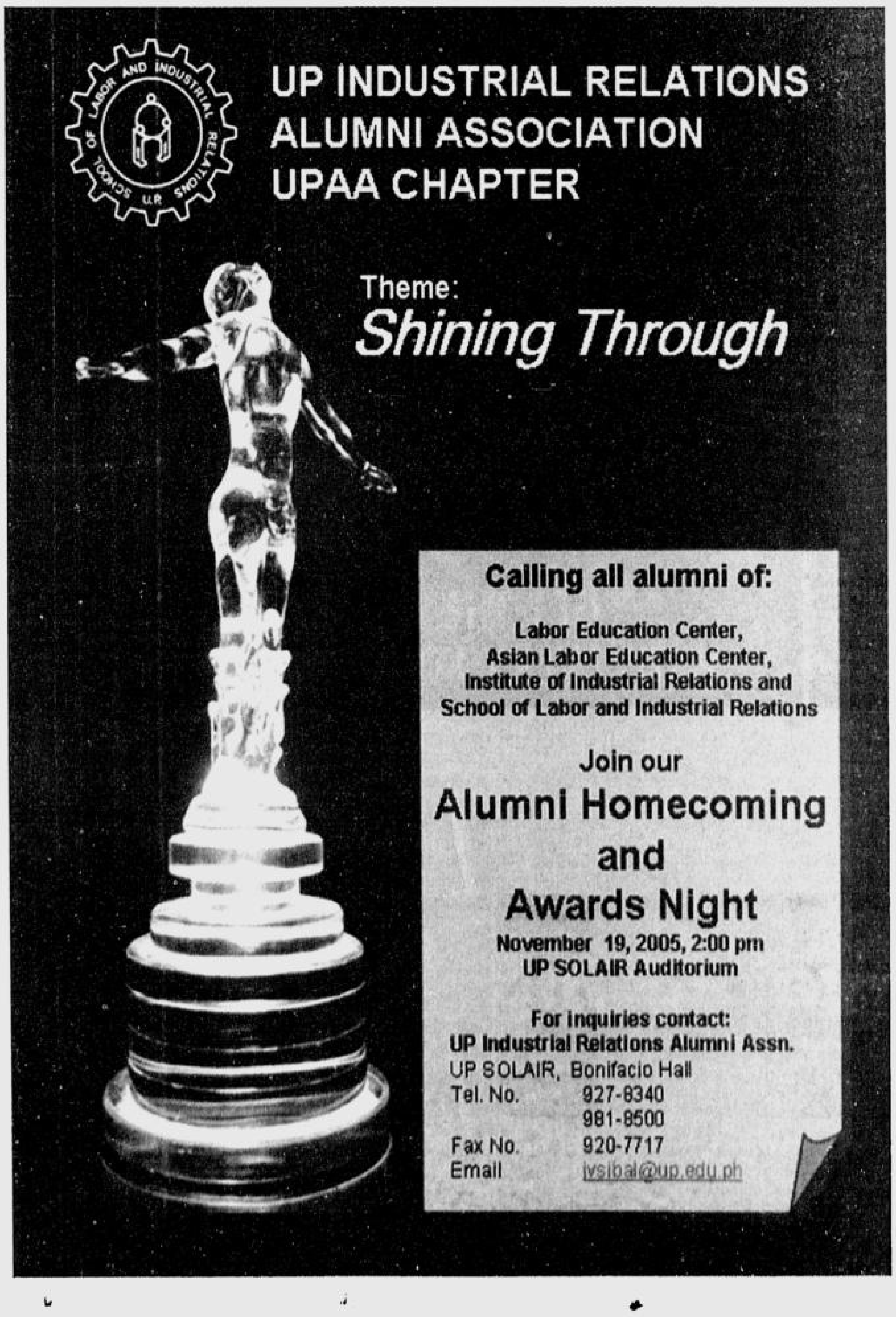
The fine then goes to a kitty, that goes to the HSBC fund, that goes to, er, "community involvement" projects, such as Gawad Kalinga, where volunteers get to build low cost houses for the poor in Cavite and Nueva Ecija, costing HSBC about P5 million, so far.

Last time around in Cavite, Warner went with Bangko Sentral Governor Armando Tetangco Jr. (or "Say") and National Treasurer Omar Cruz (or "Say Mo," or maybe not).

Our usually reliable sources swore that, on the Cavite site, Say and Omar carried trucks upon trucks of brick and mortar on their bare shoulders, wading in the mud, enduring the sweltering sun, after which they also had to face the ordeal of playing golf.

Also, not so long ago at the Nueva Ecija site of Gawad Kalinga, Warner unabashedly shed tears while delivering a speech. Reports said that he actually felt deep compassion for the beneficiaries of those tiny teeny houses.

And so, if you ask me to explain the man, the difference between Warner and other expats—or, for that matter, even Filipino executives—it is that Warner has this thing decent people refer to as a "conscience."



UP INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
UPAA CHAPTER

Theme:
Shining Through

Calling all alumni of:

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Asian Labor Education Center,
Institute of Industrial Relations and
School of Labor and Industrial Relations

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Alumni Homecoming
and
Awards Night
November 19, 2005, 2:00 pm
UP SOLAIR Auditorium

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UP SOLAIR, Bonifacio Hall
Tel. No. 927-8340
981-8500
Fax No. 920-7717
Email ivsibal@up.edu.ph

HSBC …

From page B1

mitter pays a flat rate of $6.95 for bank account-funded transfers and $7.95 for credit-card funded transfer, one of the lowest rates in the market. The beneficiary is charged about $1.50 for every withdrawal.

The remittance project, funded by a Euro 530,000 grant from the European Commission, will be initially be available to customers of Opportunity's two biggest partners in the country—Tulay sa Pag-Unlad Inc. (TSPI) and Taytay sa Kauswagan (TSKI). The Opportunity Microfinance Bank will also take part in the pilot project.

TSPI serves around 130,000 clients mainly in Metro Manila and Luzon while TSKI caters mainly to the Visayas region and some provinces in Mindanao, reaching almost 150,000 clients. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 28, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	31	357,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	52.5	51	52	1,522,500
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	600
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	1,120,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	47.5	48	199,300
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	211,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26	26	422,000
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	1,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	25,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,300
Manulife Financial Corp.	2825	2825	2825	2825	760
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	9,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	20
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2010	2000	2010	1,750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	15,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	1,340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	710	705	705	6,200
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	5,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.049	0.047	0.049	200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	1,123,000
Phil Long Dis Tel Co.	1660	1680	1660	1675	240,220
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	1,650,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	11,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	1,900
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	111,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,280,000
Petron Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	1,079,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.99	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.4	511,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	140,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	29,041,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	1,510,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.55	1,374,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36.5	35.5	36.5	159,400
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	16,000
San Miguel Corp. B	89	90	89	90	224,100
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	15.75	5,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,490,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	287.5	290	287.5	290	95,570
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	2,025,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	873,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	170,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	1,900,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	350,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	940,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3.05	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	880,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43	42.5	42.5	274,200
House Of Investments Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	3,560,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	66,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	4	3.95	4	1,845,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	1,138,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	8,410,000
Paxys Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	64,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.215	120,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	229	220	227	451,050
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,500,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	5,630,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.125	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.7	4	3.7	3.7	39,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	90,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	510,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	275,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	89,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	26,000
Far Eastern University	610	610	610	610	400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	4,735,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	8,800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	160,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	2,349,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.21	0.195	0.21	230,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	800,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	307,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	45,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.9	7.5	7.9	18,871,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	98,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	101,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	2,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	2,360,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	196,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	7,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	560,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	7,089,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	25.5	116,700
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	160,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	500,000

CURRENCIES

October 28, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823791	1.000000	55.0600
Japan	Yen	0.007137	0.008663	0.4770
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469231	1.783500	98.1995
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106241	0.128966	7.1009
Switzerland	Franc	0.646770	0.785114	43.2284
Canada	Dollar	0.702714	0.853024	46.9675
Singapore	Dollar	0.488086	0.592487	32.6223
Australia	Dollar	0.623753	0.757174	41.6900
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.185180	2.652590	146.0516
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219666	0.266652	14.6819
Brunei	Dollar	0.486644	0.590737	32.5260
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020221	0.024546	1.3515
UAE	Dirham	0.224308	0.272287	14.9921
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.213900	66.8373
Brazil	Real	0.360442	0.437541	24.0910
Denmark	Kroner	0.134046	0.162721	8.9594
India	Rupee	0.018331	0.022252	1.2252
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218263	0.264950	14.5881
Mexico	New Peso	0.075619	0.091794	5.0542
New Zealand	Dollar	0.581527	0.705916	38.8677
South Africa	Rand	0.123322	0.149701	8.2425
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.000962	0.0530
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024499	0.029739	1.6374

Shares close 0.97% …

From page B1

chips, dealers said.

However, many investors were on the sidelines ahead of a four-day weekend. Financial markets will be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Friday next week for public holidays.

The composite index rose 18.76 points to 1,960.22 after trading between 1,941.46 and 1,960.57. Turnover was 485.2 million shares worth P1.07 billion.

Gainers led losers 43 to 25, with 37 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

October inflation seen at 6.5%

From page B1

mestic liquidity.

"The prevailing conditions support the case for monetary tightening," Guinigundo said.

While he said it was still too early to say whether the BSP would likely raise interest rates and the reserve requirement before the year ends, Guinigundo said the authorities would have to manage the rapid growth in domestic liquidity.

Tetangco sees inflation averaging lower at 6-7 percent in the last three months of 2005 but the BSP may still tighten monetary policy if needed to mop up excess liquidity that could add to inflationary pressures from runaway oil prices.

Asked whether another increase in the reserve requirement was an option before the end of the year or in 2006 given the higher-than-expected growth in domestic liquidity, Tetangco said: "That is one of the tools of monetary policy. If domestic liquidity is growing at a fast rate, that is always being considered."

The BSP already raised the reserve requirement on banks by two percentage points last July and jacked up its key overnight rates by three-fourths of a percentage point since April this year.

The government sees inflation averaging at 7.6-7.9 percent this year and 8-8.5 percent, overshooting the government's targets of 5-6 percent and 4-5 percent, respectively.

More Taiwanese manufacturers are turning to Subic Park for expansion

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TAIWANESE MANUFACTURERS ARE turning to Subic Bay Industrial Park for their expansion plans, including a P748-million optical disk factory, the first in the country.

Jerry Chen, president of Gigastorage Corp., said the firm was looking at putting up production lines in Subic to augment its factories in Hsinchu, Taiwan.

"Gigastorage is thinking of having eight production lines in Subic, which each cost US$1.7 million (or about P93.5 million)," Chen said in an interview.

He said the firm's decision would be based on whether there is available land in Subic with basic infrastructure needed to support such a factory.

If these requirements are met, "Gigastorage is willing to enter into a joint venture or work on its own," Chen said.

According to Armand C. Arreza, administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Gigastorage is one of four Taiwanese firms interested in setting up new factories at the Subic Bay Industrial Park.

The firms are engaged in the manufacture of bicycles and motorcycles.

"What these firms want is for the site to have at least standard factory buildings ready for furnishing," he said.

Arreza explained that the Subic Bay Development and Management Corp., with the help of SBMA, would see to the construction of the buildings.

Gov't seen to post gains in tax effort

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES OVER THE MEDIUM-term is expected to post gains of up to 17 percent in its tax effort—the highest since the late 1990s.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said this would be one of the positive results of the implementation of the VAT Reform Law (VAT), considered to be the Arroyo administration's key in solving the country's pressing fiscal problem.

Tax effort, one of the figures used by investors and creditors to gauge a country's fiscal stability, is the ratio of tax collection to gross domestic product (GDP). The higher the tax effort, the higher the government's ability to collect revenues in accordance with the growth of the country's economy.

Teves said that by the end of this year, the country's tax effort would settle at 13.3 percent, thus registering the first increase since 1997.

With the VAT in place, "we can go back to the situation in the late 1990s when tax effort was at 17 percent," Teves said in a media briefing on fiscal developments held yesterday in Makati City.

Back then, Teves added, the tax base was broader.

He noted that the VAT, whose coverage was expanded to include oil and electricity among others, would help improve efficiency in the government's tax collection. A broader base for VAT, which has an input-output credit mechanism, would provide government a more complete picture of taxpayers.

Due to huge revenue leakages, estimated at 40 percent of potential revenue, the government incurred budget deficits which, in turn, resulted in the consistent drop in the country's tax effort.

After registering 17 percent in 1997, tax effort fell to 15.6 percent in 1998, 14.5 percent in 1999, 13.7 percent in 2000, 13.5 percent in 2001, 12.8 percent in 2002 and 2003, and 12.6 percent in 2004.

Aside from the VAT, there are other revenue-raising measures that can help prop up the country's tax effort, Teves said.

These include continued privatization of government assets, rationalization of fiscal incentives, and improved monitoring of the financial performance of government-owned and -controlled corporations.

The World Bank has stressed the need for the government to improve its tax effort, saying the 2004 figure compared poorly with its Asean neighbors.

"The goal should be to bring tax collection where basic services can be provided more adequately to the people," said Joachim von Amsberg in the same media briefing.

He said improvement in tax administration and solving corruption was necessary to raise the public's confidence in government.

He said taxpayers would be less hostile of tax measures, such as the VAT, if they see that taxes paid would result in the delivery of better public services.

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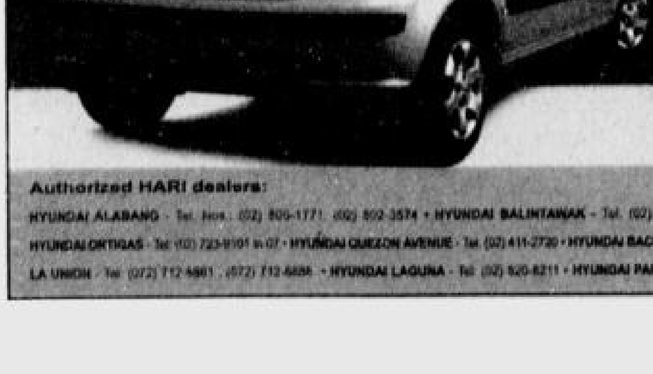

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Children: the missing face of AIDS

THIS 4-month-old girl, one of 22 children kept in a St. Petersburg hospital for HIV-infected children, looks through the bars of a child-protection barrier in this May 13, 2004 file photo. Every minute of every day a child dies of AIDS, but only 5 percent of those infected have access to life-preserving drugs. REUTERS

THIS 10-year-old boy receives his daily dose of antiretroviral medicine at the Nkosi Haven home in Johannesburg, South Africa. The United Nations Children's Fund is appealing for more funds for children with HIV. REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS agencies and other partners launched last Wednesday a global campaign focusing on the enormous impact of HIV/AIDS on children. They said it was a disgrace that fewer than 5 percent of HIV-positive children receive treatment and that millions of children who have lost parents to the disease go without support.

The United Nations Children's Fund said children affected by the disease were the "missing face" of AIDS—missing not only from global and national policy discussions on HIV/AIDS, but also lacking access to even the most basic care and prevention services.

Millions of children are missing parents, siblings, schooling, health care, basic protection and many of the other fundamentals of childhood because of the toll the disease is taking, said the Unicef and the Joint United Nations Program on HINV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The Unicef and UNAIDS noted that every minute around the world:

- A child dies of an AIDS-related illness
- A child becomes infected with HIV
- Four young people aged 15-24 become infected with HIV.

Philippine situation

In the Philippines, 2,354 HIV cases have been reported since 1984. The progression of HIV/AIDS in the country has been considered by some as "low and slow," but others prefer to describe the situation as "hidden and growing."

Of the total number of HIV cases:

- 3 percent are among children under 19
- 92 percent was transmitted through sexual intercourse
- 34 are overseas Filipino workers.

Vulnerable

Young people are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection. According to the 2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey, of 20,000 respondents in the 15- to 24-year age group:

- 23 percent have had premarital sex
- 73 percent believed they would not contract HIV/AIDS
- 28 percent believed AIDS to be curable.

"If AIDS explodes here it will have a terrible impact on children—children who will lose their parents, their lives and their future," said Unicef Philippines chief of communication, Dale Rutstein.

MTV summit for AIDS

Unicef and UNAIDS will again team up with MTV Philippines to reach tens of thousands of youth with life-saving information through the MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS.

"Our work with MTV on the Staying Alive Music Summit each year helps thousands of young people learn the straight facts about HIV and AIDS. Research shows that the youth are getting the message," Rutstein said.

This year's Music Summit will support the global campaign, Unite for Children, Unite Against AIDS.

2010 goals

The global campaign aims to achieve progress for children in four key areas:

- **Prevention of mother-to-child transmission.** The vast majority of the half-million children under 15 who die from AIDS-related illnesses every year contract HIV through mother-to-child transmission. The campaign aims by 2010 to provide 80 percent of women in need with access to services to prevent transmission of HIV to their babies. At present, less than 10 percent of women have access to these services.
- **Pediatric treatment.** Less than 5 percent of HIV-positive children in need of AIDS treatment are receiving it, and only 1 percent of children born to HIV-infected mothers have access to cotrimoxazole, a low-cost antibiotic that can nearly halve child deaths from AIDS by fighting off deadly infections. The campaign aims by 2010 to provide antiretroviral treatment and/or cotrimoxazole to 80 percent of children in need.
- **Prevention.** Adolescents and young people aged 15-24 account for roughly half of all new HIV infections, but the vast majority of young people have no access to the information, skills and services needed to protect themselves from HIV. The campaign aims by 2010 to reduce by 25 percent the number of young people living with HIV.
- **Protection and support of children affected by AIDS.** By 2010, it is estimated that there will be 18 million children who have lost at least one parent to AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa alone. Well before parents die, children—especially girls—have to take on adult tasks such as caring for the sick, looking after younger siblings, generating income to pay for health costs, or producing food. Often they must drop out of school. The campaign aims by 2010 to reach 80 percent of children most in need of public support and services.

Funding gap

According to UNAIDS, $55 billion will be needed over the next three years, $22 billion in 2008 alone, to confront the AIDS pandemic. There is currently a funding gap of at least $18 billion from 2005-2007. Not only does AIDS funding need to increase dramatically, but a significant portion should be specifically targeted for children affected by the disease.

"AIDS continues to tear apart families and communities, leaving behind 15 million orphans and robbing countries of their future," said UNAIDS executive director Peter Piot. "If countries are to develop, we must put children first. Children must therefore be a major priority when it comes to the way we allocate and use resources."

Schizophrenia drug reduces risk of relapse, rehospitalization

By Charles E. Buban

A LARGE STUDY SPONSORED by the United States' National Institute of Mental Health revealed that one of the five major antipsychotic drugs tested may have an advantage in dealing with relapse and rehospitalization of people with schizophrenia, a major issue with the patient's family who typically bears the financial burden of medication.

The study, called the Clinical Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness (Catie), compared four new-generation drugs and one older drug used to treat schizophrenia, a brain disorder characterized by hallucinations, delusions and disordered thinking.

While the study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine last month, showed that all the medications were comparatively effective, the drug olanzapine (marketed by Eli Lilly under the brand Zyprexa) appeared to demonstrate better efficacy in terms of duration of successful treatment and reduced risk of rehospitalization. The rate of patients switching from the drug was 64 percent over the 18-month test period, against an average of 74 percent for all drugs tested.

Schizophrenia, which affects around 1 percent of the world population, is usually a lifelong condition and most people with this illness will probably take medication for the rest of their lives.

Continued drug treatment is necessary because it reduces the intensity and frequency of the relapse, said Philippine Psychiatric Association president Dr. Sonia Castro-Rodriguez.

More credible

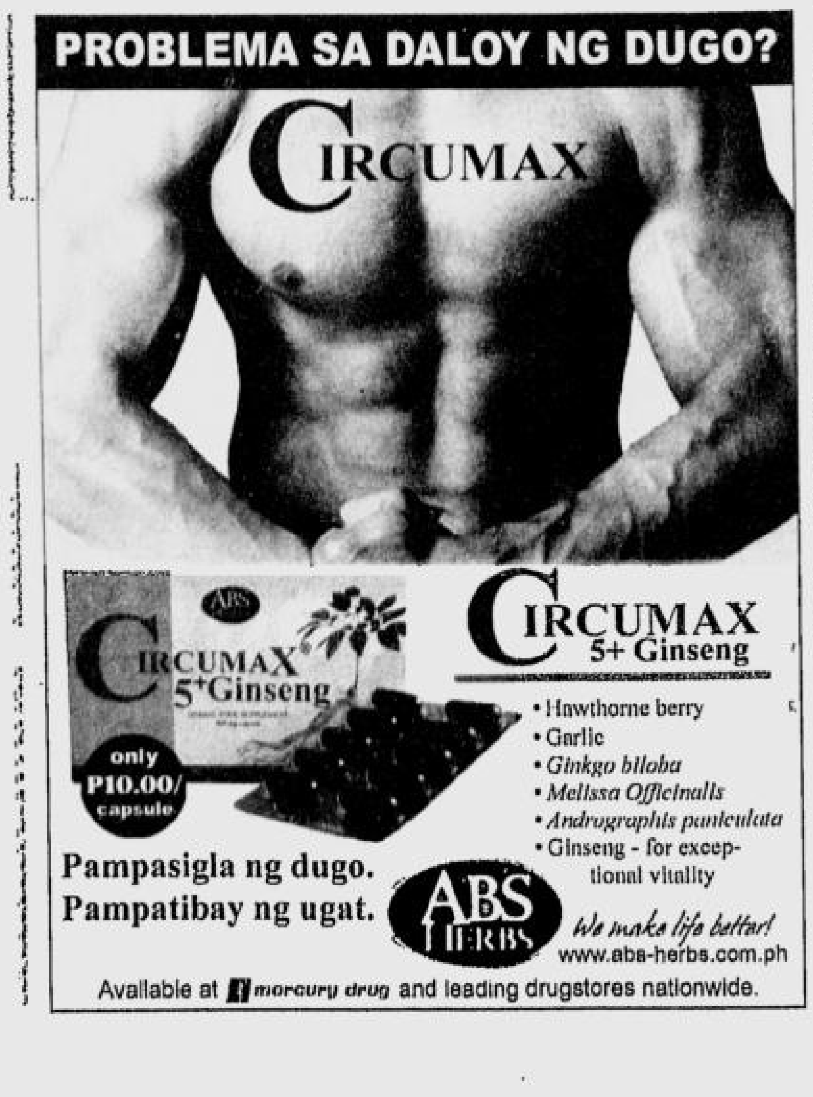
The Catie study involved more than 1,400 patients across the United States and the fact that the study's $42.6 million funding came from the US government, rather than from pharmaceutical companies, gave it more credence among doctors.

The study emphasized that there was no "one-size-fits-all" medication when it comes to treating schizophrenia.

Rodriguez said that since schizophrenia may not be a single condition and its causes are not yet known, current treatment methods are based on both clinical research and experience.

"It is therefore important that doctors and patients must carefully evaluate the tradeoffs between efficacy and side effects in choosing an appropriate medication. What works for one person may not work for another," said Rodriguez.

She said a combination of maximized benefits and minimized side effects increases the likelihood that a person with schizophrenia will stay on his medication, a vital component in managing symptoms and reducing the risk of relapse.



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Twentysomethings in science

(First of 2 parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

SOME OF THE ARTICLES I HAVE enjoyed writing the most concern outstanding scientists. I was fortunate to have talked at length and became friends with some of our venerable National Scientists and Academicians and interviewed and counseled some of our young Math Olympiad winners. So when I came across a report by Framelia Anonas of the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD) on four promising young adult scientists, I could not help but share some tidbits with you.

Joselette "Joy" Reyes is a university research associate at the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology in the University of the Philippines at Los Baños. Joy's projects involve looking at the DNA level of microorganisms and even cloning experiments to discover practical applications.

Under the supervision of director Teresita Espino, Joy and her team are currently developing medium chain triglyceride, a tailored fat. By catalyzing coconut oil with these fats, they have come up with useful products such as fruit and vegetable protectant and pineapple and banana flavorings.

Joy says, "I really get excited...when I discover new things... [When] I get good results, I am inspired to go on with my work. I get energized."

Integrated circuits

Jelda Jayne Miranda was a member of the Instrumentation Physics Laboratory at the National Institute of Physics in UP Diliman. Last year her team, headed by director Caesar Saloma, developed an advanced but less expensive technique of identifying failure sites in integrated circuits. Using laser microscopes and optical imaging, the group was able to see through three-dimensional transistors and spot damaged areas.

The project won third place in PCASTRD's outstanding research awards. After Jelda graduated last March, she worked for Intel Philippines as a failure analysis engineer.

Jelda says, "What is so exciting about lab work? The lively discussion! In the lab, you have to be up-to-date. If you discover something that others haven't, it gets you excited. If you successfully replicate what others did, it also makes you excited. What may be stressful at times are research meetings. But those are the things that keep the lab working."

Genetic database

Henry Perdigon works at the National Science Research Institute at UP Diliman. His specialty is DNA forensics, and his daily tasks include checking the accuracy of procedures in drawing out DNA from various samples such as bloodstains on clothes and pieces of wood. The DNA laboratory is headed by Dr. Corazon de Ungria.

Henry and his team are building a population genetic database, and they have traveled from Batanes to Mindanao to collect samples from Filipinos. The project aims to study genetic variations in our country, a huge job, considering the diversity of our race.

Henry recalls the 1998 Paco fire tragedy where many children died and were burned beyond recognition. DNA testing was the only way to identify their remains. Henry reflects, "It was [touching] to see the victims' relatives finally find peace of mind as the children were properly identified using the science that we promote."

Chemical structures

Armando Jerome "Arjay" de Jesus operates the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectrometer at the National Chemistry Instrumentation Center at the Ateneo de Manila University. This machine helps Arjay and his team analyze the chemical structure in various projects, herbal medicines, food and plastic products. Looking at peaks and waves, they study elements (such as carbon) in the samples and ensure quality control of products. Their biggest client is the Bureau of Customs.

Arjay says: "Imagine a polymer sample as a string of beads. When you look closely at the beads you can see if it is made up of the same materials, or if not, you can see how many are pearls, how many are semi-precious stones in there. Similarly, in the analysis of polymers, we try to find out what materials are present, and determine their proportions. This information is important to the BoC because tariff for polymers with the same materials is different from those with varied structure."

Currently Arjay is studying the seaweed extract carrageenan, which is used in food, toiletries and cosmetics. Hopefully, carrageenan can also be used in medicine, ceramics and cleansers. Arjay says, "Getting new results drives me."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005

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NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Mindanao Polytechnic State College formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the MINDANAO POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Ester A. Garcia.

MINIMUM QUALIFIACATIONS:

- Must be a Filipino citizen
- Preferably a holder of a doctorate degree
- Preferably between 40 to 60 years old but not more than 65 at the time of application.
- Must be morally upright
- With recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe of industry
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil case filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation
- Sandiganbayan
- Civil Service Commission and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer
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Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed curriculum vitae and certified supporting documents
- Proposed vision, mission and thrusts of the College
- Results of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government physician or any accredited health institution
- Medical Certificate from a government physician

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before 29 November 2005 to:

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MEMORANDUM-CIRCULAR
NUMBER 01- 05

RULES AND REGULATIONS PRESCRIBING THE ESTABLISHMENT, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION

I. AUTHORITY:

A. Section 1 (C) & 3 (1), 5 and 6 of RA No. 5173 otherwise known as the "COAST GUARD LAW".

B. P.D. 601

II. SCOPE:

This Memorandum-Circular applies to all aids to navigation, regulatory markings, obstruction buoys or beacons owned and/ or maintained by private parties, associations and other government agencies (such as the Cebu Port Authority and Philippine Ports Authority), established/ installed in navigable waters of the Philippines.

III. PURPOSE:

To prescribe the rules and regulations for the establishment, administration, operations, and maintenance of private aids to navigation in navigable waters in the Philippines.

IV. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

A. **Aids to Navigation** — means any device external to a vessel or aircraft designed/intended to assist a navigator to determine his position or safe course or to warn him of danger or obstruction to navigation.

B. **Private Aids to Navigation** — an aid to navigation authorized by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) but established, administered, operated and maintained by private parties, associations and other government agencies, to include the Philippine Ports Authority, in the navigable waters in the Philippines.

C. **Navigable Waters** — the term navigable waters, singular or plural means waters navigable in fact which itself, or by uniting with other waters, navigable in long forms a continuous highway over which inter-island or international commerce may be conducted in the customary mode of trade and travel on waters.

D. **Lateral System** — A system of aids to navigation in which buoys, day beacons and minor lights marking navigable channels are assigned colors and numbers in geographical sequence and in accordance with their respective locations in relation to the channel. The Philippines which belongs to Region B of the International Maritime Buoyage System prescribes the color green for buoys and markers on the port side of the channel and red on the starboard, when entering port. (Additional, detailed information may be found in the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) handbook of the Maritime Buoyage System.)

E. **Cardinal Marks** — a system of marking according to the four cardinal quadrants, (N.E.S.W.) of the compass to indicate which side of the mark lies the deepest water and which is the safe side to pass or a feature in the channel – a junction, or bifurcation, or end of the shoal.

F. **General Navigation** — navigable area, route and/ or harbor commonly utilized by all kinds of watercraft, vessels or ships.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

A. No person, public body, or instrumentality shall establish any aid to maritime navigation without first obtaining permission from the Commandant, PCG.

B. No persons, public body or instrumentality shall operate any aids to navigation without first registering the same with the PCG. All private aids to navigation shall be continuously operated without prejudice to liabilities that may be charged to the owner as a result of its malfunction.

C. Private ports, and harbors shall conform with public standards in the establishment and operation of navigational aids.

D. All ports under the jurisdiction of local government units, the Philippine Ports Authority and other port authorities shall conform to public standards set by the PCG.

E. Coast Guard authorization for the establishment and maintenance of a private aid to navigation does not authorize any invasion of private rights, nor grant exclusive privilege, nor authorize the levying of charges by private individuals or entities nor does it obviate the necessity of complying with any national or local laws or regulations.

F. Operation of electronic aids to navigation as private aids will not be authorized except for shore based radar stations.

G. No person shall obstruct or interfere with any aid to navigation established and maintained by the Coast Guard or any private aid to navigation established and maintained in accordance with Coast Guard regulations.

H. No persons shall take possession of or make use for any purpose, or build upon, alter, deface, destroy, move, injure, obstruct by fastening vessels thereto or otherwise or in manner whatsoever that will impair the usefulness of any aid to navigation established and maintained by the Philippine Coast Guard or any private aid to navigation established and maintained in accordance with Coast Guard regulations.

VI. PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT:

A. Applications to establish private aids to navigation shall be made in three (3) copies to the Commandant, PCG thru the Commander of the Coast Guard District with the following information:

1. The necessity/importance for the aid.
2. The proposed position of the aids to navigation by two or more horizontal angles, or bearings and distances from chartered landmarks.
3. A section of the chart or sketch showing the proposed location of the aid to navigation shall be included.
4. For lights: the color, characteristics, height above water, luminous and nominal range, description of illuminating apparatus.
5. For buoys or day beacons: shape, size, color, number or letter, depth of water in which located and height above water.
6. Material specifications and drawings of the structure upon which the light shall be installed.

B. The PCG shall review, evaluate, assess and approve said application if found to be in compliance with relevant regulations.

C. The PCG approval shall be the basis for the proponent to commence the construction, erection or establishment of the aids to navigation.

D. The PCG shall, during the construction conduct inspections to ensure adherence to the approved plan.

E. The completion of the construction/establishment shall be reported officially to the PCG and in writing as soon as possible.

F. Upon completion, the PCG shall establish the exact position of every aid to navigation installed for immediate and subsequent issuance of Notice to Mariners.

G. The PCG shall likewise report the new aids to navigation to NAMRIA for publication/inclusion in all charts.

VII. REGISTRATION

A. The report of completion as maintained in Para IV-E above shall cause the PCG to register the private aids to navigation sequentially in order of date of completion and included in the PCG inventory upon payment of the following fees:

1. Application Fee – P1,000.00
2. Registration Fee
   a) Unlighted Buoy – 3,000.00
   b) Lighted Buoy – 5,000.00
   c) Beacon – 7,500.00

B. A certificate of aids to navigation (ATON) registration shall be issued thereafter.

VIII. OPERATION OF PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION:

A. All private aids to navigation shall be operated continuously at all times, specification/characteristics as approved by the PCG.

B. All private aids to navigation shall at all times conform to the characteristics/specifications as approved by the PCG.

C. All private aids to navigation shall be operated at the expense of its registered owner.

D. Any temporary change or alteration shall be immediately reported to the PCG.

E. Any stoppage in operation shall likewise be reported to the PCG as soon as possible.

IX. MAINTENANCE

A. All private aids to navigation shall be maintained to ensure continuous operation at all times.

B. PCG shall conduct inspections periodically to ensure continuous operation of all aids to navigation.

X. PERIODIC INSPECTION:

A. The PCG shall conduct yearly inspection of all private aids to navigation to ensure compliance with the standards of operation and level of upkeep and maintenance.

B. A yearly ATON inspection certificate shall be issued to all aids to navigation upon payment of corresponding fee.

C. The PCG may conduct random inspection as the need arises as result of reported malfunction due to any cause such as vandalism, poor maintenance, etc.

XI. PENALTY CLAUSE:

A. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P50,000.00 for violation of Para VIII-A of this Memo-Circular.

B. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P30,000.00 for violation of Para VIII-B of this Memo-Circular.

C. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P25,000.00 for violation of Para VIII-D of this Memo-Circular.

D. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P10,000.00 for failure to report non-operating aids to navigation in violation of Para VIII-E.

E. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P1,000.00 thereafter for each succeeding day of continued violation of Para VIII-A and VIII-B of this Memo-Circular.

F. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P20,000.00 for violation of Para V-A of this Memo-Circular.

G. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P30,000.00 for violation of Para VIII-B of this Memo-Circular.

H. The registered owner shall ay a fine of P50,000.00 for violation of Para V-G this Memo-Circular.

I. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P100,000.00 for violation of Para V-H of this Memo-Circular.

XII. RECESSION CLAUSE:

All memorandum circulars inconsistent with this Memorandum Circular are hereby rescinded.

XIII. EFFECTIVITY:

This Memorandum-Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication once in a newspaper of general circulation.

ARTHUR N GOSINGAN
VADM PCG

(PDI - Oct. 15 & 29, 2005)

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SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270 * 4214 * 4283 FAX NO. (047) 252-4251

2nd Bidding

SBMABAC-INV-008-05
Supply & Installation of
Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)
Subic Bay Int'l. Airport SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply and Installation of Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)
Location	Bldg. 8050 (Radar Room), Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA), SBFZ:
Brief Description	The scope shall be the total replacement of defective Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) installed at Radar Room, Bldg. 8050, SBIA, SBFZ. The UPS capacity is 40 KVA and must be US or European made with 60 minutes (1 hour) back-up time at full load and shall consist of one (1) unit of UPS modules that is parallel redundant ready with a minimum of two (2) battery strings, and other features. It shall operate in conjunction with the existing building electrical system to provide power conditioning, back-up and distribution for critical loads.
Approved Budget Cost For the Contract	Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,500,000.00)
Contract Duration	Forty-five days (45) days upon signing of Purchase Order/Contract including delivery and installation of UPS.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last *five (5)* years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary ***"pass/fail"*** criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 7, 8 and 9, 2005 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 9, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids	November 23, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)

The venue for the above activities shall be at the Office of the Procurement and Property Management Department, Room 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00)** to the SBMA Cashier at Bldg. 229, Waterfront Rd. SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 29 & Nov. 6, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
National Capital Region
U.N. Avenue, Manila

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES

1. The National Food Authority, National Capital Region, U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila through the Approved Corporate Budget for Calendar Year 2005, intends to apply the sum of THIRTY FIVE MILLION TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED PESOS (P35,024,400.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Security Services Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at Bid Opening

2. The National Food Authority - National Capital Region invites all interested private security agencies to register (accreditation), apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of security services to be deployed at the different NFA designated areas/installations (composed of different NFA district offices) in NFA - National Capital Region, on a per lot basis, as follows:

LOT NO.	AREA COVERED	NO. OF SECURITY GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
I	RO/CDO & IPSO	112	P18,950,400.00
II	NDO & MTO	35	P5,992,000.00
III	SDO, EDO & CPO	60	P10,152,000.00

Application forms and list of requirements for registration can be secured from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC - SS) Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable registration fee of PESO TWO THOUSAND (P2,000.00).

Only PSA's with Certificate of Official Registration issued by NFA-NCR RBAC-SS may apply for eligibility and to bid for NFA Security Services. Delivery of the Services is required from date of signing of the Contract for Security Services until ***DECEMBER 31, 2006***. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
1. Issuance of application for Registration/Requirements	October 29 - November 9, 2005 (From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
2. Deadline for submission for Registration Application & Requirements	Not later than November 11, 2005 3:00 p.m
3. Issuance of Certificate of Registration & Application/ Requirements for eligibility & to bid	On or before November 11-14, 2005 (From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
4. Pre-Bidding Conference	November 15, 2005; 10:00 a.m
5. Bidding Proper	November 29, 2005; 9:00 a.m.

3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 [R.A. 9184] and is restricted to organizations with at least 60% interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183) and has been in the security business for at least three (3) years. Only bids of bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The process for eligibility check is described in the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the prospective Bidders (with Certificates of Registration issued by the RBAC) from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00). The method of payment will be in Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

5. The National Food Authority, National Capital Region, reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Food Authority - National Capital Region
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila
Telephone No. 563-9437
Fax No. 563-9465

(Sgd.) **ATTY. BASILIDES TACO**
Asst. Regional Director &
Chairman, BAC, NFA-NCR

(PDI - Oct 29 & Nov. 5, 2005)

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Ellcee Philippines Inc.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as a **New Export Producer of Garments** with a capacity of **25,000 dozens per year** and with project/ plant site located at #2 Pio Alvarez St., Bambang, Pasig City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 29, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles
2000 Toyota Echo H/B WHF-811
2003 Honda City XLF-268
1995 Toyota Corolla / UAR-910
For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc. / Dick Cariño Tel.# 878-54-57

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Capt. Librado Vergel Gonzalez

of
Celdran Village, Iligan City

His bereaved children **Rosalinda & Rene, Librado Jr.** and **Christina, Guillermo** and **Marivel**, and **Lovely Josephine**, grandchildren **Michael, Mark, Matthew, Alfie** and **Tara** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be at
the Corpus Cristi Church, Iligan City
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass
on October 29, 2005.

Burial at St. Michael Cemetery,
Palao, Iligan City,
Philippines.

REYNALDO D. BUENCAMINO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 28, 2005 at the age of 61.

His bereaved wife **NYMPHA**; daughter **CHINKY**; sons **DEXTER, ALFRED, BRENDON, ELTON** (†); daughter-in-law **HEIDI**; grandchild **CHLOE**; sisters **ELISA ALMENDRAS** and **FE JOVEN** request to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie at #17 Colonade Townhomes, Firefly Street, Valle Verde 6, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced.

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved

Imelda Guevara Asuncion

(July 22, 1943 - October 29, 2004)
on the occasion of her
1st Death Anniversary

We would like to request relatives, friends and readers to remember her in our prayers.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Felisa P. Yadao

92 y.o. has been suffering pulmonary insufficiency and died at VMHC.

We the family of **YADAO, RIVERAL, DEPAKAKIBO** and **AGNIR** request that you include **Felisa** in praying to God for her soul. She was an active member of DMI and was consistently awarded as volunteer worker of VMMC. She has prayerful life and love Praying for devotion to Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

She was survived by her husband **Col. Leo S. Yadao** (Ret.) sisters **Concepcion, Mercedes, Pacita** and brother **Florendo**; Children, **Leandro, Daisy** and **Protacio, Alex** and **Nilda, Betty** and **Orlando**; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Guadalupe Viejo, City of Makati and will be brought to Camp Aguinaldo Pro-Cathedral on the 3rd day of November 2005 for the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Interment will be held at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina at 10:00 a.m.

Filomeno P. Pico

"....Amen, I say to you, today
you will be with me in Paradise"
-- Luke 24:43

Loving husband to
Nellie Jomento Pico (+)
Expedita Chan Pico

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 26, 2005 at the age of 91.

We, his surviving spouse and children **Art & Gilda, Cora & Gil, Tessie & Lando, Jun & Becca, Mario & Jenny, Cynthia & Lyndon;** grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to join the family in giving thanks and praise to the Lord for his life.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Edsa, Makati City.

Funeral mass will be offered at 9:00 am, Friday, November 4, 2005. Interment follows at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

DEATH NOTICE

Jesusa Dungco David
Passed away on October 27, 2005.
Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish, Poblacion Road, Muntinlupa City
Interment to be announced later.

Remembering Our Beloved...

Dra. Engracia V. Lagman

(1924 - 1992)

Schedule of Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on her 13th Death Anniversary at the following churches:

OUR LADY OF REMEDIES PARISH
Malate Catholic Church, Malate, Manila
6:00 PM, 29 October 2005

CATHEDRAL SHRINE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Regalado Avenue, Fairview Park, Quezon City
7:00 AM, 30 October 2005

CHRIST THE KING PARISH
Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City
10:00 AM, 30 October 2005

IMMACULATE CONCEPCION PARISH
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila
8:00 AM, 30 October 2005

MARY THE QUEEN PARISH
West Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
9:00 AM, 30 October 2005

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
San Fernando, Pampanga
7:30 AM, 30 October 2005

MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila
8:30 AM, 30 October 2005

MONASTERIO DE STA. CLARA
C-5, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City
6:00 AM, 30 October 2005

MOUNT CARMEL SHRINE
New Manila, Quezon City
7:15 AM, 30 October 2005

NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Kanlaon corner Retiro Streets, Quezon City
7:00 AM, 30 October 2005

NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY
Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City
7:00 AM, 30 October 2005

OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH
Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
6:30 AM, 30 October 2005

PARISH OF THE HEARTS OF JESUS & MARY
West Triangle, Quezon City
7:30 AM, 30 October 2005

SAN AGUSTIN PARISH
San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga
8:00 AM, 30 October 2005

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City
6:15 AM, 30 October 2005

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
9:15 AM, 30 October 2005

SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE
EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City
6:30 AM, 30 October 2005

STA. PERPETUA PARISH
D. Tuazon Street, Quezon City
6:00 AM, 30 October 2005

STA. RITA DE CASIA PARISH
Philam Homes, Quezon City
7:30 AM, 30 October 2005

STA. RITA DE CASIA PARISH
Sta. Rita, Pampanga
8:30 AM, 30 October 2005

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

In Loving Memory
on the 8th Death Anniversary of

Asuncion "Soning" Hojas Escaño

of Cagayan de Oro City

Beloved wife of the late Roque "Tete" Vaño Escaño and Foundress & First Chairperson of the Board Ria Hojas Escaño Foundation, Inc.

Who died in the grace of Our Lord last October 29, 1997.

Holy Masses will be offered today, Saturday, October 29, 2005 in the following churches:

GREENHILLS MEMORIAL PARK, *BULUA*	4:00 PM
SAN VICENTE PARISH, *CUGMAN*	6:00 AM
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR, *GUSA*	6:00 AM
JESUS NAZARENO PARISH, *RECTO AVENUE*	5:30 PM
OUR LADY OF FATIMA, *CAMAMAN-AN*	6:00 AM
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, *CARMEN*	6:00 AM
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL	5:30 PM
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA, *NAZARETH*	6:00 AM
STO. NIÑO PARISH, *COGON*	6:00 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, *BULUA*	6:00 AM
CARMELITE MONASTERY, *CAMAMAN-AN*	6:00 AM
CARMELITE MONASTERY, *BUKIDNON*	6:00 AM

The RIA (Roque, Isidro & Asuncion) Hojas Escaño Foundation Inc. Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff, Grandson Franz Josef, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember Asuncion in their prayers.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WATER DISTRICT
263 Rizal Avenue., Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. 433-2408, 433-5032, 433-6802
Fax No. (48) 433-6803

AMENDMENT OF INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project	Supply and Delivery of Two (2) Units Brand New Generator Sets
Location	Puerto Princesa City Water District
Brief Description	1 Lot, 2 units of Brand New Identical Generating Set; 90 KVA; 440/220 VAC; 3Ø; 4 wire
Approved Budget For the Contract :	One Million Eight Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Pesos (Php 1,832,000.00)
Delivery Period	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last the 2 years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 27, 2005 – November 18, 2005
2. Pre Bid Conference	November 7, 2005, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	November 21, 2005, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room
4. Opening of Bids	November 21, 2005, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 1,800.00) to the Puerto Princesa City Water District Cashier.

The Puerto Pricesa City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) Engr. Vicente D. Abrea
PPCWD BAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 29, 2005)

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE WEEKEND IN TAGAYTAY

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For only **P 900.00 per person / 3 meals and 2 snacks** included, children below 12 years old staying with their parents will be charged half the price only for the meals. With **FREE** use of the amenities, **basketball and badminton court, swimming pool, karaoke bar.**

For reservation please contact: Mike @ 5298174-75

PROMO PERIOD STARTS OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 6, 2005 ONLY!!!

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested **general building and general engineering** contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and to bid and if later found eligible, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title :	**Proposed Cleaning, Repair and Application of Water-Repellent Coating and Resealing of Pre-cast Joints at the Exterior Façade of the Buildings at the BSP Main Complex.**
Scope of Work :	Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion **of the proposed cleaning, repair and application of water-repellent coating and repealing of pre-cast joints at the exterior façade of the buildings at the BSP Main Complex** all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location :	A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sts., Manila
Approved Budget :	Fifteen Million Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos (P15,700,000.00)
Source of Funding :	BSP Building Improvement – Head Office
Contract Duration :	90 calendar days
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)	
PCAB License :	Registration Particulars of at least **"Medium A" (Building & Industrial Plant or Waterproofing)**
Contractor's Construction Experience :	The contractor and/or its sub-contractor should have completed at least one (1) project with high rise building application involving not less than 5 storey high or total accumulated area of not less than 5,000 square meter of the same or similar project masonry finish costing not less than seven million eight hundred fifty thousand pesos (P7,850,000.00) In case of a joint venture, submission of a valid joint venture agreement including the special PCAB license is required. The joint venture most have previously completed at least two (2) similar construction projects involving similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.
Certification of Satisfactory Performance :	Should be able to submit certificates of satisfactory performance from the client of the declared completed similar projects. For those contractors who have previously done / completed BSP project/s, the certificate/s of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank for said project/s must be submitted.

(PDI – Oct. 18 & 29, 2005)

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270 * 4214 * 4283 FAX NO. (047) 252-4251

SBMABAC-INV-007-05
Expansion of Enterasys X-pedition 8600
MIS-Data Center, Bldg. 229, SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Expansion of Enterasys X-pedition 8600
Location	MIS-Data Center, Bldg. 229, SBFZ
Brief Description	The scope shall be supply and installation of one (1) unit Gigabit Ethernet Module and one (1) unit Fast Ethernet Module to upgrade the existing equipment Enterasys X-pedition 8600
Approved Budget Cost :	One Million One Hundred Eighty Thousand and Eight Hundred Twelve Pesos **(P1,180,812.00)**
Contract Duration :	Fifteen (15) days upon signing of Purchase Order/Contract including delivery and installation of the equipment.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last *three (3) years* with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary *"pass/fail"* criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 7, 8 and 9, 2005 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 9, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Submission/Opening of Bids	November 23, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)

The venue for the above activities shall be at the Office of the Procurement and Property Management Department, Room 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** to the SBMA Cashier at Bldg. 229, Waterfront Rd. SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 29 & November 6, 2005)

JOB Market @www.jobmarketonline.com

Westgate Alabang Home Depot opens

FROM THE SAME GROUP THAT INTRODUCED the Ortigas Home Depot, the Home Depot Group launches its Westgate Alabang Home Depot, along Alabang-Zapote Road, Westgate Alabang, Muntinlupa City. This is the fourth home depot after Cebu Home and Builders in Cebu City, Mactan Home and Builders in Mactan, Cebu and recently, the Ortigas Home Depot located in Julia Vargas Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The opening of the Alabang branch is aimed at servicing homeowners living South of Manila, making it more easily accessible to their home interior and construction needs.

Built on a sprawling 11,000 sq. meter lot, the Westgate Alabang Home Depot - is a twin-level, fully enclosed and well-ventilated edifice that is the perfect place to shop for all your home interior and construction needs - architectural hardware, artificial stone products, appliances/generators/houseware; blinds and curtains, fabrics and upholstery; board and ceiling products, ceramic tiles, doors and door systems, furniture - office, residential and commercial; glass and aluminum products; kitchen and bedroom cabinet systems/accessories; landscaping; laminated and natural wood flooring systems; lightings and electrical fixtures; lumber and wood products; marble, granite and other natural stones; roofing and insulation; paint and paint sundries; plumbing fixtures and fittings, pumps; pet sundries; plastic laminates; pre-cast systems and security systems.

Participating establishments in the tenant showroom sections boasts a plethora of specialty shops includes the following - A.M. Multisales/Champs, Abstract Lamps & Lighting House, Adco Blue, Adlib, Aristocrat Asia Builders, Asiaco, Benco Granite, Bestank, Blims Fine Furniture, Builders Point, City Trade, Composite Construction Corp, Cosmostone Materials Supply, Danilyn's Enterprises, Deltawood, Design Source, Doortech, DTS Wood Products, Dubricon, Edia Furniture/Index, Elba, Eurokonzept, Felport, Filipinas Tank, Fortress Mktg, Furnishop, Gain More, Great Asia, GT Natural Stone, GT Stone Works, Hanbee Trading, Igros Marketing, Interni Italia/Signature Kitchen, Jaycomtech, Jesslie Lights, Jiemei, JME Supreme, La Europa Ceramica, Lepanto Tiles, Light Arts, Living 'n Style, LLK Trading, Loft Details, Luminest Lighting, Maison & Smith, Mirage Aluminum, Mixed Ideas Interiors, Modufit Kitchens, Multiline Designs, Neptune, Pageant Duralco, Pars Builders, Pateco, Philsystech, Piedra, Power-Aire, Rian Commercial, Ricad Trading, Robles Heritage, SGO Stained Glass Overlay, Shell Canvass, Shinto Roofing, Stone 2000, Stone Age, Streamline, Style House, Timberco, V. Roque and Wesgate Alabang Furniture Center.

The Westgate Alabang Home Depot is owned and operated by CW South Builders Development Corp, a joint venture of Cebu Oversea Hardware Co Inc and West Point Industrial Co. With over 50 years experience in hardware and construction requirements, this is the second home depot project of Cebu Oversea Hardware Co in Metro Manila after establishing the Cebu Home Builders Depot in Cebu City. The company is also behind the successful launching of Living 'n Style Home Finishing Center located along Chino Roces Avenue in Makati.

West Point Industrial Sales Co Inc has a 12-year impressive record in importation and wholesale of industrial and construction materials with superior, high quality product lines.

Come and shop at the fully air-conditioned Westgate Alabang Home Depot - the newest and most convenient center for construction and interior needs, where it has everything you need to build your ideal home under one roof, and that includes the roof.

The Westgate Alabang Home Depot - is open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ERVING THE F PIN
AND A OUN TH

BPI RECEIVES 2005 BALIKAT NG BAYAN AWARDS

Every year, as the Social Security System (SSS) celebrates its anniversary, awards of recognition are regularly handed out to companies that have continuously adhered to the Social Securities Law (SS Law). In SSS's 48th anniversary celebration, BPI Family Savings Bank bagged the 2005 Balikat ng Bayan Award for being the 'Best Paying Thrift Bank', for its years of dedicated service to its clients, as well as their deep regard and cooperation with the SS Law. Already on its 10th year, the Balikat ng Bayan Awards are given to 13 deserving companies nationwide for faithfully complying with the provisions of the SS Law in terms of coverage, collection and giving out of benefits, accuracy and timeliness of their submission of reports, and participation in SSS programs—qualities that perfectly fit the BPI Family Savings Bank. Photo shows BPI Family Savings Bank president Alfonso Salcedo Jr., receiving the Balikat ng Bayan award from SSS commission's Chair Cunanan and Vice Chair Corazon de la Paz.

WELCOME
PHILIPPINE LADIES TENNIS LEAGUE
SEPT. 26 - OCT. 22, 2005
Dunlop

WHIRLPOOL SUPPORTS LADIES TENNIS LEAGUE

Whirlpool believes in supporting the people who have helped them reach the top, and in the spirit of giving back to their loyal patrons, Whirlpool recently took part in the just concluded 2005 Philippine Ladies Tennis League. The competition, which lasted from Sept. 26 to Oct. 22, was an awesome display of combined power and grace from all the female participants. The event is also proof that women are convincingly making their presence felt amidst the male dominated arena of sports. The aura of fun and excitement never wavered and at the end, the team Ladies of Whirlpool smashed their way to victory winning 5 out of 5 games on a round-robin format. Sports is just one of the many ways Whirlpool gives back to the community. Shown are the members of the Ladies of Whirlpool team (from left): Mary Ang, Mary Yao, Dorene Uy, Sally Ong, Jean Agra and Lisa Go (not in the picture).

The good witch's brew

LITTLE WIZARDS AND WITCHES WILL TAKE over the Power Plant Mall during a Halloween affair on Oct. 30. To be able to dig this event, kids can get passports for P250 each at the Customer Care desk, R-1 level (beside Mango) starting Oct. 23, however there are limited slots available. The Passports will entitle little sorcerers and sorceresses to the various happenings like the movie viewing, face painting, a picture from Kodak, the program which includes a puppet show, magic show and an acrobatic show, plus it will enable the kids to join the raffle draw. This once a year phenomenon is for juvenile spell casters who can have their face painted gruesomely and have their pictures taken. Then grace the shows with their hideous presence like the puppet show where they can watch puppets as they exhibit their amusing acts. Focus and gaze with awe as the masters of illusions play tricks with your eyes during the Magic Show. And finally be amazed in spectacular acrobatic skills demonstrated in the acrobatic show. And then, the most awaited moment of these little wizards and witches comes. At exactly 6 p.m. trick or treating will start and candies, chocolates and other goodies will flood the Power Plant Mall. Freebies from participating stores await kids who will be joining. Participating stores will be putting up Halloween icons. So little wizards and witches ready to infuse get a hold of your passports and come celebrate the good witch's brew!

Australian-based migration agency now in the Philippines

EASYMIGRATE CONSULTANCY SERVICES, AN Australian-based and registered migration agency, owner and principal, Cyrus Mistry, recently visited Manila to open its new office in Makati City. Mistry held discussions with John Craigie, managing director of the new Philippine offshoot, EasyMigrate Corp, and conducted its inaugural seminar to interested participants wishing to migrate to Australia.

Mistry, stated that the present employment climate in Australia is one of acute shortage in many professional disciplines and trades. The national unemployment rate is currently under 5.3 percent (and less in some States). In addition, although the administrative process is complex, the Australian immigration authority (Dimia) has actually relaxed some of its previous restrictions and rulings.

As the gazetted minimum wage for employer-sponsorship is currently running at $39,100 per annum, he said this is currently the best possible time for candidates with the basic qualifying credentials to apply for Australian work or permanent visa.

These include applicants to be under 54 years of age, (45 years for permanent visas) Professional or Trade skilled, have recent related experience (3-6 years relevant experience) and vocational or competent English. Further points may be gained by potential migrants whose occupation falls under the MODL (Migration Occupations in Demand List), from sponsorship by blood relatives, employer or state/region sponsorship.

Mistry added that, with very few exceptions, visa applications will actually be processed by the EasyMigrate specialists in Perth, "where our success rate is currently running at an exceptional 95 percent". One of the contributing reasons for the high success rate is that EasyMigrate's internal policy is to advise applicants at an early stage (and before they expend any funds) should their application be lacking sufficient justification.

As a promotional incentive, EasyMigrate Corp is currently offering free assessment (until Dec. 31) to all Philippines-based applicants who comply with the basic qualifiers. More information may be obtained at EasyMigrate Corp at the 6th Floor, RGV Building, Pres. Osmena Highway, Makati City with tel. nos. 889-8141 or 844-4463 or e-mail biodata john.craigie@easymigrate.com.

PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA PAGKAIN
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: (632) 712-3341 TO 54 • FAX NO.: (632) 732-1110 • www.nla.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of FDC Laboratory Equipment (11 items)

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P1,906,500.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the supply and delivery of various FDC Laboratory Equipment (11 items)*, as follows:

Item No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Chemistry Section			
1	Mojonnier Ether Extraction System for Fat Analysis	1	700,000.00
2	Capillary Column (accessory for Gas Chromatograph)	1	250,000.00
3	Open Circulating Bath	1	295,000.00
4	Water Activity Meter	1	200,000.00
5	pH Meter	1	100,000.00
6	Heating Mantle	1	37,000.00
7	Columns for High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (accessory to HPLC)	2	70,000.00
Microbiology Section			
8	Electronic Top Loading Balance	1	120,000.00
Technology Development Division			
9	Digital Reference Thermometer	1	35,000.00
10	Upright Freezer	1	65,000.00
Microanalytical Section			
11	Digital Microscope camera with software and accessories as tripod, glasswares stand and carrying case	1	34,500.00
TOTAL			1,906,500.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of various FDC Laboratory Equipment*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties** on *November 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on December 7, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *December 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No.	*(632) 712-0454*
e-mail address	*vsvillarama@nla.gov.ph*
Fax No.	*(632) 712-0454*
Website	*www.nla.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - October 29 & November 5, 2005)

PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA PAGKAIN
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: (632) 712-3341 TO 54 • FAX NO.: (632) 712-1110 • www.nla.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of FDC Laboratory Equipment (17 items)

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P3,347,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract *for the supply and delivery of various FDC Laboratory Equipment (17 items)*, as follows:

Item No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Refrigerated Circulator	1	165,000.00
2	Elisa Reader and Accessories	1	500,000.00
3	Electronic Dessiccator with Built-in Hygrometer	1	250,000.00
4	Dessiccators for Chemistry Section	1	315,000.00
5	Air Oven	1	270,000.00
6	Dispensette	4	100,000.00
7	Chlorine Test Kits	1	35,000.00
8	Hepa Filters for Clean Bench	13	260,000.00
9	Thermometer Reader with penetration Probes	3	60,000.00
10	Thermocouple Thermometer Recorder or	1	35,000.00
	Meter with Penetration Probes	2	60,000.00
11	Metrological Weight Set	1	80,000.00
12	Standard Weights, Class F1	1	100,000.00
13	Glass Dessiccator for Shelf-Life Testing Section	2	92,000.00
14	Glass Dessiccator for Package Testing Section	1	180,000.00
15	Dessiccator Cabinet	1	65,000.00
16	Ice Maker for Ice Cubes	1	430,000.00
17	Ice Maker for Flake Ice	1	350,000.00
TOTAL			3,347,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of FDC* Laboratory Equipment (17 items). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a ***Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on September 28, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on ***September 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

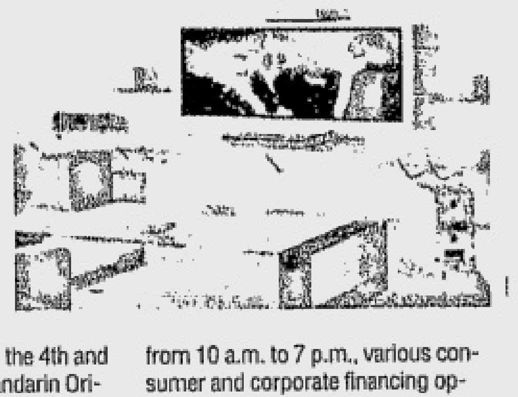
Procuring Entity - *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons - *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address - *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No. - *(632) 712-0454*
e-mail address - *vsvillarama@nla.gov.ph*
Fax No. - *(632) 712-0454*
Website - *www.nla.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - October 29 & November 5, 2005)

Product FILES

Listening in Style exhibit

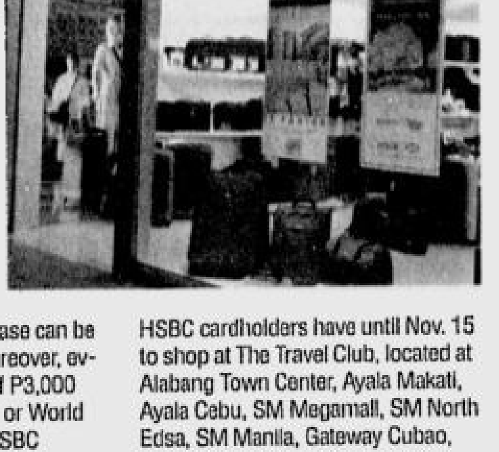


THE LISTENING IN Style Corp will feature a wide array of Home Entertainment package options that best fit architectural style, taste preferences, and budget limits of visitors to their upcoming exhibit at the 4th and 6th floor suites of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Makati this Nov. 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., various consumer and corporate financing options are available to choose from.

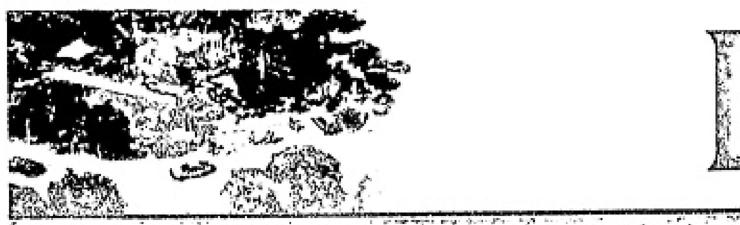
Dr. P for active senior citizens

THESE DAYS, THE ELDERLY need not curb their activity schedules due to problems brought about by incontinence. Because Dr. P adult diapers are equipped with absorbent pads that prevent leaks and maintain that all important dry feeling, as well as an antibiosis and deodorization layer that controls the growth of germs and neutralizes unpleasant odors, they can continue with their active lifestyles without fear and the embarrassing experiences related to incontinence. Dr. P comes in different variants: Basic for light incontinence, Standard for moderate incontinence, and Premium for heavy incontinence. Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, Dr. P adult diapers are available at all leading supermarkets, groceries and drug stores.

The Travel Club, HSBC promo

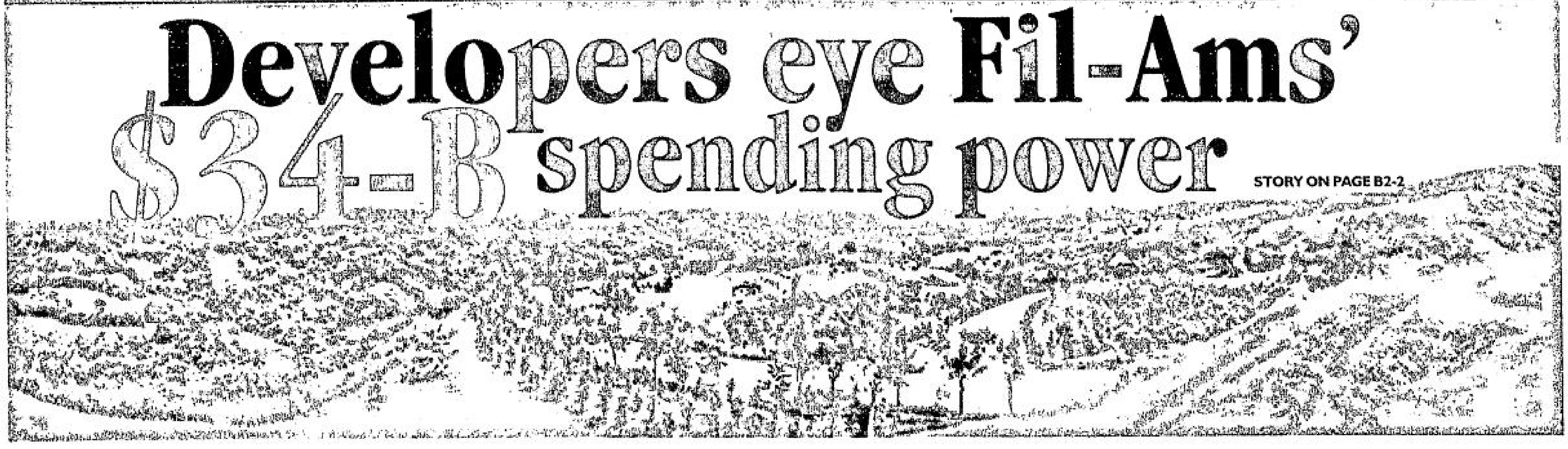


THE TRAVEL CLUB and HSBC have partnered to give globetrotters 5x more miles to Beijing and Sydney each time they shop for luggage, trolleys and other travel solutions at The Travel Club. Jetsetters can also avail of the 0 percent installment program of HSBC and The Travel Club - a minimum purchase of P5,000 enables them to pay for purchases over three months while a P10,000 minimum purchase can be paid over six months. Moreover, every minimum purchase of P3,000 worth of any Carlton, Ace or World Traveler bags using the HSBC Mabuhay Miles Visa will get the cardholder a free passport holder from The Travel Club. So, stop dreaming and start shopping for traveling bags. HSBC cardholders have until Nov. 15 to shop at The Travel Club, located at Alabang Town Center, Ayala Makati, Ayala Cebu, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, Gateway Cubao, Market Market, Greenhills, Shangri-La Mall, SM Dasmariñas, Marilao, Baguio, Batangas, Cebu Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan and Robinsons Bacolod.



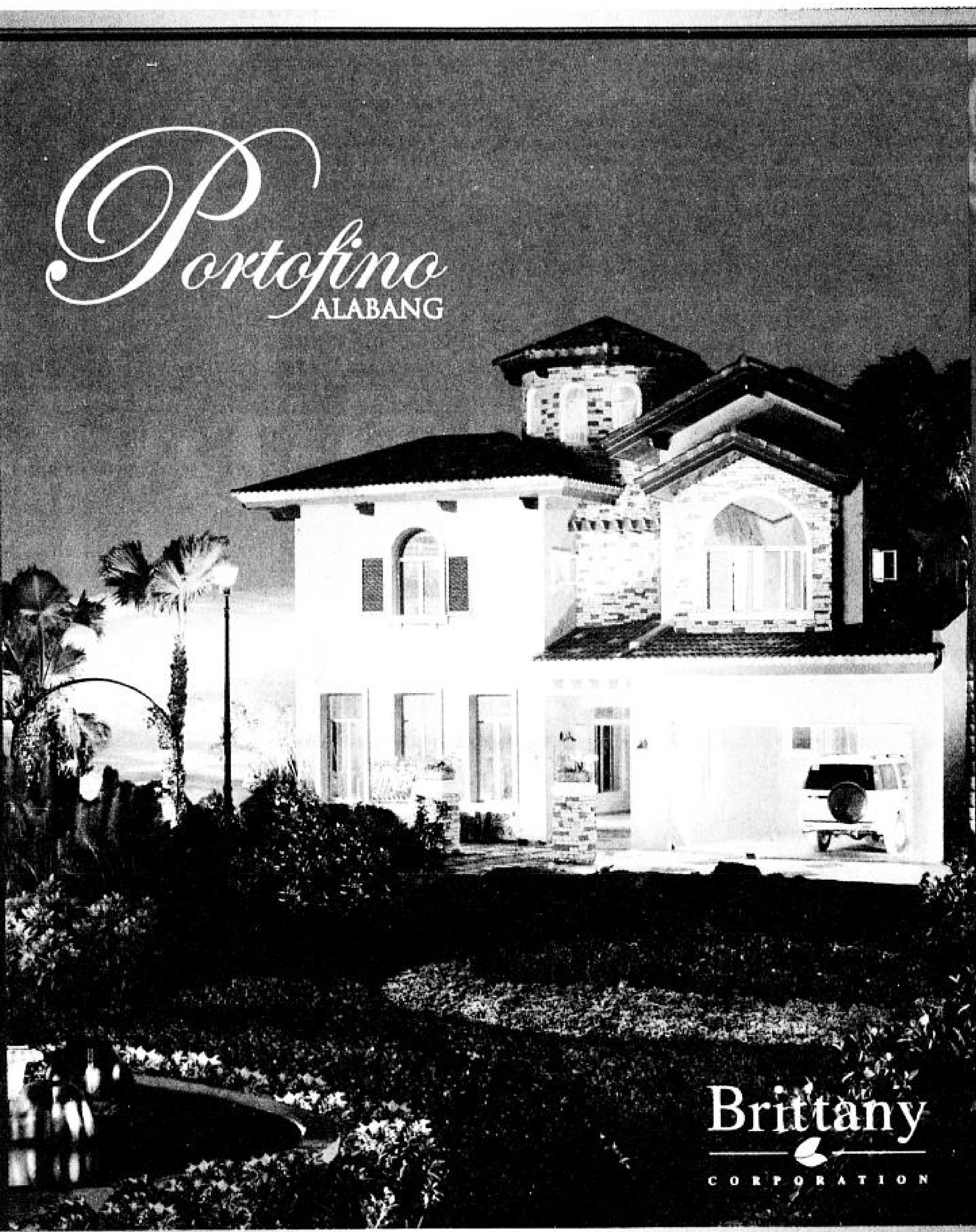
PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**



Developers eye Fil-Ams' $34-B spending power

STORY ON PAGE B2-2



Meet The Masters

Named after the masters—Cézanne, Monet, Raphael, and Rembrandt—the homes of Courtyards of Portofino display an Old World elegance and magnificence in design and architecture similar to these masters' works of art. A quaint indoor courtyard provides a cozy nook blanketed by starry or sunny skies and refreshed by the breeze.

Courtyards Within A Courtyard

Courtyards of Portofino features indoor courtyards within grand courtyards—a concept that's uniquely Brittany's. The homes' indoor courtyards are private sanctuaries ideal for relaxed coffee breaks in the afternoon or romantic moments at night. The grand courtyards provide a place where families can interact with others—serving as communal gardens for residents.

Other Masterpieces On Display

Portofino Heights and Portofino South are two of Portofino's other masterpiece enclaves. Both developments offer the same charming and artful inspiration, with sun-drenched colors, light wood textures, stone claddings, archways, and cupolas. Home and lots are offered in both Portofino Heights and Portofino South.

Conveniently Located

Portofino sits in the center of Alabang. Its strategic location provides easy access to shopping malls and business establishments, along with the academic institutions of La Salle Zobel, San Beda Alabang, Wood Rose, Southridge, and more. Numerous hospitals, including the world-class Asian Hospital, are just minutes away. Main roads—including the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Cavite-Laguna (LPMCL) Link Road that stretches from Ayala, Alabang to Molino Road in Bacoor, Cavite—connect Portofino to other destinations, making it conveniently accessible.

Our Newest Works Of Art

To answer the high demand for the fast-selling courtyard homes, Courtyards of Portofino opens its latest enclave—Courtyards II of Portofino. Offering the same quaint courtyard homes that captured the hearts of many, Courtyards II is your second chance at owning a masterpiece home.

Masterpiece Amenities

The amenities at Portofino are masterfully crafted. The swimming pool is inspired by Roman baths. The Grand Clubhouse is ideal for functions. Basketball and tennis courts, a barbecue pit, nature trails, and the river park are perfect for leisure activities.

A Gallery Of Masterpiece Homes

Masterfully crafted, Portofino is a grand expression of art in property development. From the landscaping to the architectural designs, the artistic Italian touch is evident all throughout the community.

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Brittany Corporation

From Property Developer To *Lifescape*™ Masterplanner

Brittany Corporation today evolves from its foundation as a property developer into a forward-looking masterplanner.

Realizing the evolving needs of people in a home, Brittany creates its uniquely-themed, world-inspired properties with an eye towards masterplanned urban renewal.

Ms. Jing Serrano, President of Brittany Corporation, explains, "Urban renewal as defined by a comprehensive masterplan is the future of property development. What this means is, people will live in what we call a *Lifescape*™—a community planned to answer what's needed for a better quality of life. Residents will have a choice of homes in enclaves—single-family homes, townhomes, multi-family homes, even mid and high rise condominiums.

The *Lifescape*™ will have its own business and commercial area. And it's all unified by a unique theme. So what you have is a development that offers great value to a wide range of people, a development that offers opportunities in housing, employment and social interaction." Brittany's masterplanned developments are quickly rising with themes that take inspiration from the great homes of the world. This is evident in the Italian community of Portofino, Alabang, the San Francisco-inspired Brittany Bay in Sucat, and the Swiss haven, Crosswinds, Tagaytay. Soon even more Brittany *Lifescapes*™ will rise—allowing people to live according to a grand, world-inspired masterplan.

> "People will live in what we call a Lifescape™—a community planned to answer what's needed for a better quality of life."

"No More Expensive Hotels For Us..."

"My husband and I always look forward to coming home to the Philippines. But one of our biggest problems when we get to the Philippines is the place where we'll stay. We've lived most of our lives in the U.S.- and most of our family and relatives live in the U.S. too. So when we're in the Philippines, we have to go to a hotel ... and it's not practical. It's so expensive... mahal! Sometimes we'd stay with a friend or at a relative's place...pero nakakahiya din minsan. So we have no choice but to go to a hotel. Then we saw Portofino! The moment we saw the homes...gusto ko nang bumili right then and there! The homes are really charming and spacious...my husband and I couldn't ask for more. We're happy we have a house at Portofino...a beautiful place where we can stay when we come home to the Philippines. No more expensive hotels for us..."

Mr. & Mrs. Rodolfo Valencia

Fil-Ams from Vallejo, California
Proud owner of an Italian masterpiece, a courtyard home in Portofino

Developers eye Fil-Ams' $34-B spending power

By Tessa R. Salazar

ACCORDING TO A RECENT INQUIRER report citing Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas estimates, bank remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are expected to hit $10.3 billion by end of 2005. And by end of 2006, that figure is forecast to rise to $11.3 billion, 10 percent more.

These figures are certainly substantial, considering that as of latest count from the National Statistics Office, there are already over 1.06 million documented OFWs deployed all over the globe.

However, there is a more formidable group wielding potentially much more dollar power, and this group is composed of 3 million Filipino-Americans.

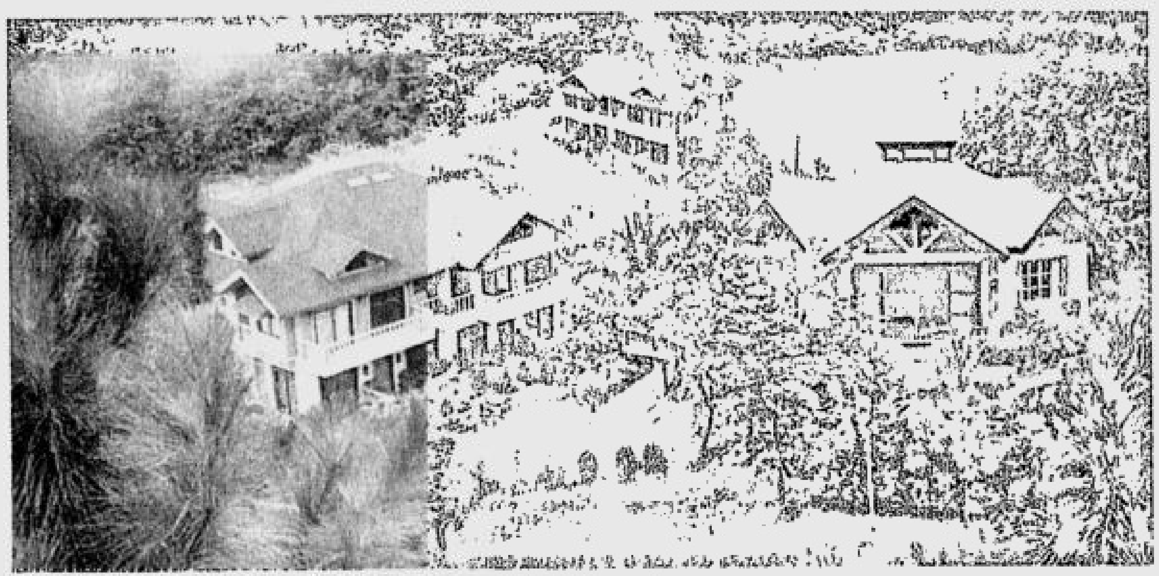
Unlike OFWs who count their length of stay in their host countries in terms of the length of their work contracts, Fil-Ams have taken "root" in the United States and have established stable incomes there.

According to the US census bureau in 2000, Fil-Ams hold an estimated $34 billion in spending power.

High-end developer Brittany Corp. is just one of the many which have been tapping into this lush P2-trillion market. It claims 50 percent of its clients as Fil-Ams.

It's the perfect investment setup, according to Brittany. "Fil-ams have realized that aside from investing in US real estate, they have the option to invest their excess funds in Philippine properties at much less cost," said Nova J. Noval, corporate communications head of Brittany.

Noval added that Fil-Ams have easy access to funding and are able to secure bank loans at low interest rates.


FOGGY, undulating Crosswinds Tagaytay

Plenty for everybody

With a projected spending capacity almost twice that of the Philippine government's national budget in 2006, the Fil-Am market provides competing developers plenty of room to maneuver.

Noval observed that even as more and more developers join the sales pitch, barely 30 percent of the total market has been tapped.

DO Plaza Estates Inc. (Dopei) in Parañaque City, a developer of the 2.7-hectare Plaza Crest, for instance, had a successful marketing road show in several US cities in the West Coast, the Mid-East and East Coast amounting to $7.8 million or P438.4 million. On Sept. 24, 2005, Dopei reported it has sold 60 units or about a third of the planned 154 units inside Plaza Crest.

"There are nearly three million Filipino immigrants to the United States who are homesick so they are always on the lookout for exciting developments," Dopei vice president for operations Joseph Edralin told the INQUIRER last month.

Brittany considers as its stronghold the West Coast, specifically southern and northern California where the majority of Fil-Ams reside. The company says it is working its way to the Midwest, and claims to have already established a significant footing in the East Coast.

It has also concentrated its efforts on Fil-Ams in Hawaii and Florida, and has plans to tap the Fil-Canadians, Fil-Australians and Filipinos based in the United Kingdom. It has also attracted Filipino buyers from Italy, Dubai, Germany and the Netherlands.

The country's leading developer, Ayala Land, has also disclosed that it has tapped the overseas market via Ayala Land International Sales Inc. (Alisi).

Well known names in property development such as Ayala would mean a lot for many Filipino communities particularly in California, Hawaii, Seattle, Chicago, Dallas and Houston that have collective memory of property scams. There were stories of Philippine developers running off with cash from presales and never built their projects.

Brittany, another trusted name in the business, said it has tapped established US-based realty firms and financial planners Mallari Global Capital Group and Philippine Properties Center Inc. to help the company gain a better understanding of the Fil-Am market.

'Patriotic investment'

"Call it a patriotic investment. A Filipino would always feel nostalgic. Given the right buttons (to push), any opportunity that calls for investing in your homeland easily outweighs foreign investments," said Noval.

Noval described Brittany's Fil-Am client profile as "baby boomers who had left the Philippines in the '60s and '70s and are now looking forward to retirement (in the Philippines)."

But an Alisi research suggests that Filipino-Americans buy homes here not primarily for retirement, since hospital facilities and standards of living here are not at par with that of the United States.

LUSH greenery on a masterplanned city

Dave Rafael, president of Alisi, said in an INQUIRER interview last month that the rise of modern hospital facilities with the construction of St. Luke's Hospital at the Bonifacio Global City could make the Philippines a more attractive retirement haven in the coming years.

Noval cited "world-class health facilities" such as the Asian Hospital in Alabang, and the soon-to-open St. Luke's Hospital (at the Fort).

She said that Fil-Ams find living in Brittany-developed properties just as satisfactory as living in the States. "Value is among our key differentiators. Even before pitching to the US market, *balikbayans* who have checked out and bought our properties have often said, *'para kang nasa* States,'" she said.

Noval claimed that these clients are aware of and adhere to strict design and construction standards, and see these standards are met, if not exceeded, by the Brittany properties using the latest technologies.

Subdivision and Housing Developers Association-Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council corporate secretary Bienvenido Uy told the INQUIRER a few weeks ago that tapping the huge market of foreign retirees will depend on several sectors that must provide the climate that is conducive for foreign retirees to consider the Philippines.

Said Uy: "The challenge is how to successfully market the retirement business. There are issues that should be addressed including the country's image problem, high incidence of crime, lack of security and destabilization. Whether these perceptions are true or not, we should all work together to change these."

Halfway home

Brittany's buyers are a diverse lot. Aside from health care professionals, other clients include entrepreneurs and traveling businessmen who see the need to purchase a halfway home.

"Nowadays, *balikbayans* would prefer to have their own place in the Philippines than to live with relatives while on vacation. (For businesspersons) having a halfway home is also better than paying for high hotel bills, while you can still get the same hotel feel and convenience," she described.

As Brittany sets its sights for the high-end *balikbayan* set, sister companies Crown Asia and Camella cater to the requirements of OFWs. Noval enumerated Brittany's custom home sites (lots only) offer a price ranging from P2.4 million to P10 million (from $42,850 to $178,571). House and lot packages are priced from P4 million to P30 million ($71,400 - $535,700), while condo units cost from P2 million to P13 million ($35,700 - $232,410).

"A property in the United States with the same floor and lot area and specifications as the ones we're selling would go for $250,000 to $800,000, and that value could go even higher in areas like Los Angeles and New York," Noval said.

Its highlight project, the 50-hectare Brittany Bay, features rolling terrain facing Laguna de Bay. A masterplanned city that promises to showcase sound urban planning, Brittany Bay is touted to embody the SFO-Neo Victorian theme.

Designing for maintainability

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

WHY DO NEW BUILDINGS IN THE PHILIPpines seem to deteriorate faster than they should? After a year of construction, some buildings look as if they were 10 years old.

A lot of factors contribute to this, the most common of which are our extreme weather conditions, the type of materials used and the improper design of the structure.

Extreme weather conditions

Depending on where they construct, builders and owners must expect the following:

- **Humidity.** This causes mildew and leaves black stains on roof tiles, shingles and other porous surfaces. It also causes some varieties of wood to rot.
- **Rain and sea water.** This induces corrosion in exposed metals, such as gates, gutters and other architectural and structural metals exposed to the elements.
- **Diesel fumes in the atmosphere.** The continuing importation of smoke-belching buses and the failure in enforcement of emission controls, plus uncaring factories and their smoke stacks pollute the air. Their crime is seen in the grey haze you see floating on the horizon. It isn't just harmful to your health; it is likewise bad for the finishes of your home. These hazardous fumes contribute to the dullness of the colors of your paint.
- **Acid rain.** The rain water that passes through clouds of polluted air results in acid rain. It could actually corrode your exposed concrete and glass surfaces. This is responsible for the watermarks you see on your glass windows. So unless you can clean your windows every time it rains, you could end up with watermarks that are very difficult to remove from your glass panes.

Not counteracting said scenarios

The sad thing about all these is that we are already aware of these cases. Why then are most structures not built to counteract these scenarios?

Again, there are several reasons, the first of which is cost. Usually, the cheapest and most common materials are used to satisfy the basic need for shelter, and to make the structure easy to sell. But then, the occupants are left to worry about maintenance later and to just upgrade the finishes when they have the budget.

Another reason for the haphazard construction is ignorance. There are some builders who have not seriously considered the maintenance issues. Some believe that if a type of design works in other countries, it would also work here, only to find out later that it has turned into a maintenance headache.

Filipinos want to stand out and be different. There is nothing wrong with adapting foreign designs, as long as the basic principles in designing for maintainability are considered. Poor design contributes to the premature deterioration of structures.

The elements are here to stay and, unfortunately, could get worse. This is all the more reason that maintainability must be everyone's concern. Being aware of the real situation out there already solves half of the problem. The second half of the solution is in addressing them.

Most of the time wide eaves, proper specifications, and using the right proportions would already do the trick. Wide eaves give a measure of protection to the entire house from sun and rain, limiting many maintenance concerns. Proper roof, gutter and storm drain designs can address other serious problems.

Houses must be designed with the end user in mind: how often can you clean it, service it and maintain it? Preparing for easy maintenance need not be expensive, it must simply hinge on proper design. Your architect is not just there to make your house look good. He is there to make it work for you!

Themed developments have evolved from Spanish, to Mediterranean, to American, and only recently, to Asian styles. Five years ago, when I proposed the Asian theme for one project, the developers were apprehensive, saying that the local market is not ready for that kind of style and that most buyers still have illusions of the west.

Today, however, due to the openness of the local market to current Asian design trends, Zen and Balinese motifs that appeal to the different segments of society, we are moving closer to a design more suitable to our conditions. I believe that unlike the previous popular themes, this one is here to stay, barring any drastic change in our climatic conditions. I believe this will just evolve into something more practical, more Filipino. We will relearn to appreciate the use of eco-friendly materials that are abundant on our soils. Clay, brick, stone are just a few of these.

Practical tips

Here are a few practical tips on designing for maintainability.

- When deciding on your wall finishes, identify which areas would easily get dirty and which will not. Use a different finish for the areas that easily get dirty. Preferably natural materials like stone or brick. However, if your budget is limited to paint finishes only, use a darker shade of paint for these areas. The termination or separators between two tones of paint may be treated with a molding. Usually, the lower portions of houses are the ones that easily get dirty. These should receive the darker coat of paint.
- When talking about roof design, I have found it quite practical to do away with inside gutters. These are gutters that are placed above an interior livable space of a house. Storm drains must always be away from the house. Avoid windows that are unprotected from the elements.

Areas prone to wetness must be designed to work without waterproofing membranes. Decks and slabs must be monolithic, with the proper drain slopes.

- Identify areas that could collect dust and be aware that when it rains, rain water must not carry these dust particles to your façade. Indoors, try to design out areas that collect dust altogether.
- Minimize the use of wood for external finishes. A lot of alternatives are available in the market. If you cannot forego it, invest in wood preservatives.
- You must always plan for expansion and flexibility. It is oftentimes the poorly planned expansions that cause all the maintenance problems.

Your new house does look great today but the real question is: how will it look a few years from now?

RECREATION Center of Ayala Hillside Estate—an Asian-style clubhouse characterized by the wide eaves.

How feng shui affects window treatments

LUXAFLEX WINDOW FASHION consulted noted US interior designer and feng shui practitioner Susan Dudics-Dean of Celestial Designs on how window treatments can be used in line with the principles of feng shui to enhance one's home.

"The most important truth behind feng shui is that everything—animate or inanimate—has energy; the key to success is understanding the movement and control of that energy," says Dudics-Dean. Chi then must flow through the home like a river. If a space is too open or linear, chi will flow in the front door and directly out the back. If it has too many oddly placed walls or furnishings, the chi may be trapped and stagnate. It is important for chi to linger in the home without becoming a static force.

A good window treatment here would be one that keeps the chi from escaping too easily, such as the Luxaflex Duette Honeycomb Shades. Its energy-efficient honeycomb construction "traps" air, thus insulating against heat and cold and deflecting chi to other areas of the home. Its Vignette window shadings are also a nice alternative to traditional heavy draperies, with its gently contoured fabric folds that easily roll up into a sleek headrail. These treatments offer the option of having two different fabrics on one shade—for example, an opaque fabric on the bottom coupled with a sheer fabric on top, which is good for areas where chi must be deflected, but where light is still an important priority.

Closed spaces, meanwhile, can cause the chi to stagnate, fostering uneasiness. Windows located in corners or hallways benefit from a sheer window treatment that opens up the space, such as the Luxaflex Silhouette window shadings that combine the light filtering softness of a sheer with the privacy control of a blind.

Connect and balance

According to ancient Chinese wisdom, the yin-yang relationship represents all the opposites in the universe. Yin signifies that which is female, cold, dark, soft, rounded, small, ornate, wide and horizontal; yang represents that which is male, warm, light, hard, angular, large, plain, narrow and vertical.

With feng shui, achieving balance in the yin-yang relationship is essential. When the yin elements in a room (rounded edges, ornate or floral prints, horizontal lines, etc.) dominate the yang elements (angular edges, plain surfaces, vertical lines, etc.) the chi moves too slowly; when yang dominates yin, it is moving too quickly.

LUXAFLEX window fashion offers a number of products to solve any feng shui-related decorating dilemma.

If the movement of energy in a room needs to be adjusted, Dudics-Dean stresses the importance of connecting various design elements to the treatment while, at the same time, balancing the yin and yang for good feng shui.

If a living room reflects a modern style with rigid, straight lines, geometric shapes and light colors, a soft horizontal window treatment may balance out the yang dominance, but it might also ruin the overall design of the room and foster negative energy for the disappointed inhabitant.

For windows with a great view—particularly of water or trees—and good light, the Luxaflex Silhouette window shadings are ideal alternatives to traditional sheer treatments. They combine the translucency of sheers with the superior light control of a blind.

A matter of taste

The last bit of advice from Dudics-Dean: if you don't like something, get rid of it!

Bothered by those orange draperies you purchased in the '70s? Tired of those blinds that never quite fit the space? Everything has energy, and disliked or unwanted objects can negatively affect the entire space. Fill your home with things you enjoy looking at and feel comfortable with.

Remember style hangs in the balance and Luxaflex Window Fashion can provide the perfect solution to any window-covering dilemma.

SHDA eyes idle bank assets . . .

From page B2-4

Industry was urged to grant incentives for foreign and local investments in retirement facilities, while the Department of Foreign Affairs should use consular offices abroad to promote the retirement industry.

A closer coordination between PRA and the Department of Tourism was urged to promote destinations for both tourists and retirees. SHDA called on the National Telecommunications Commission to adopt an open-door policy in regulating the telecommunication industry to attract investments in modern telecommunication facilities, while the Department of Public Works and Highways was expected to expand road infrastructure projects to access isolated tourist spots. Local government units was asked to maintain peace and order in municipalities, giving special attention to protection of foreign nationals.

The Department of Justice should work for the creation of special courts to speed up resolution of cases and complaints of retirees, while Congress will pass legislation to impose stiffer penalties on anyone harming tourists and foreign nationals.

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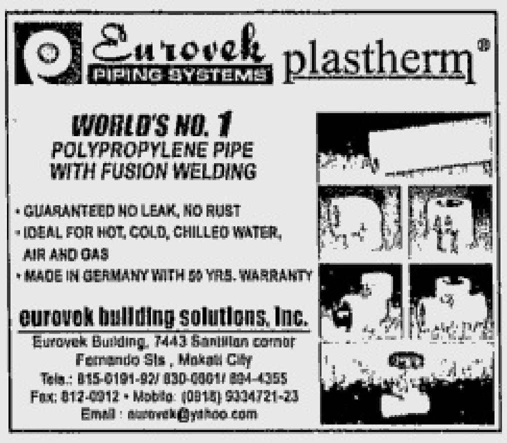
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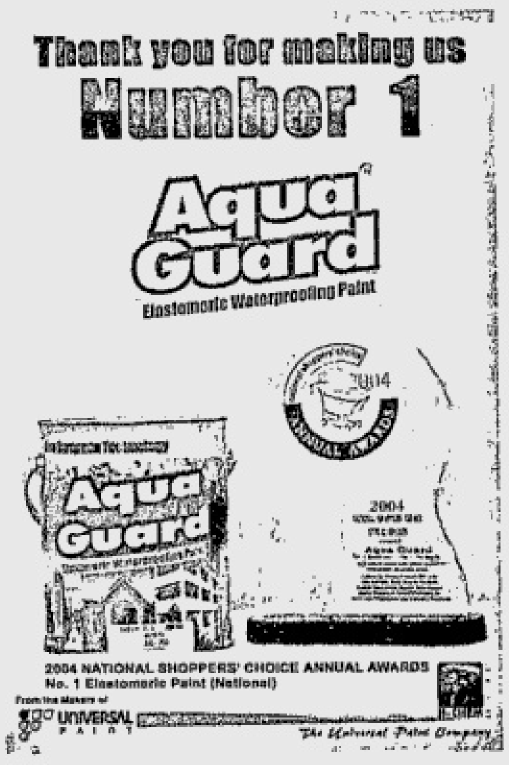
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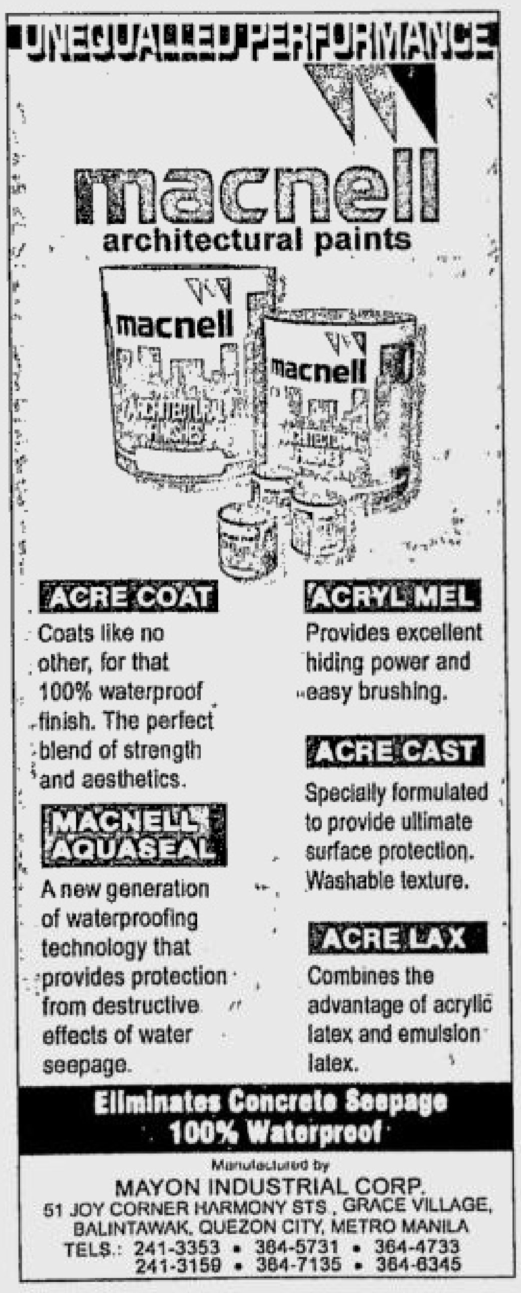
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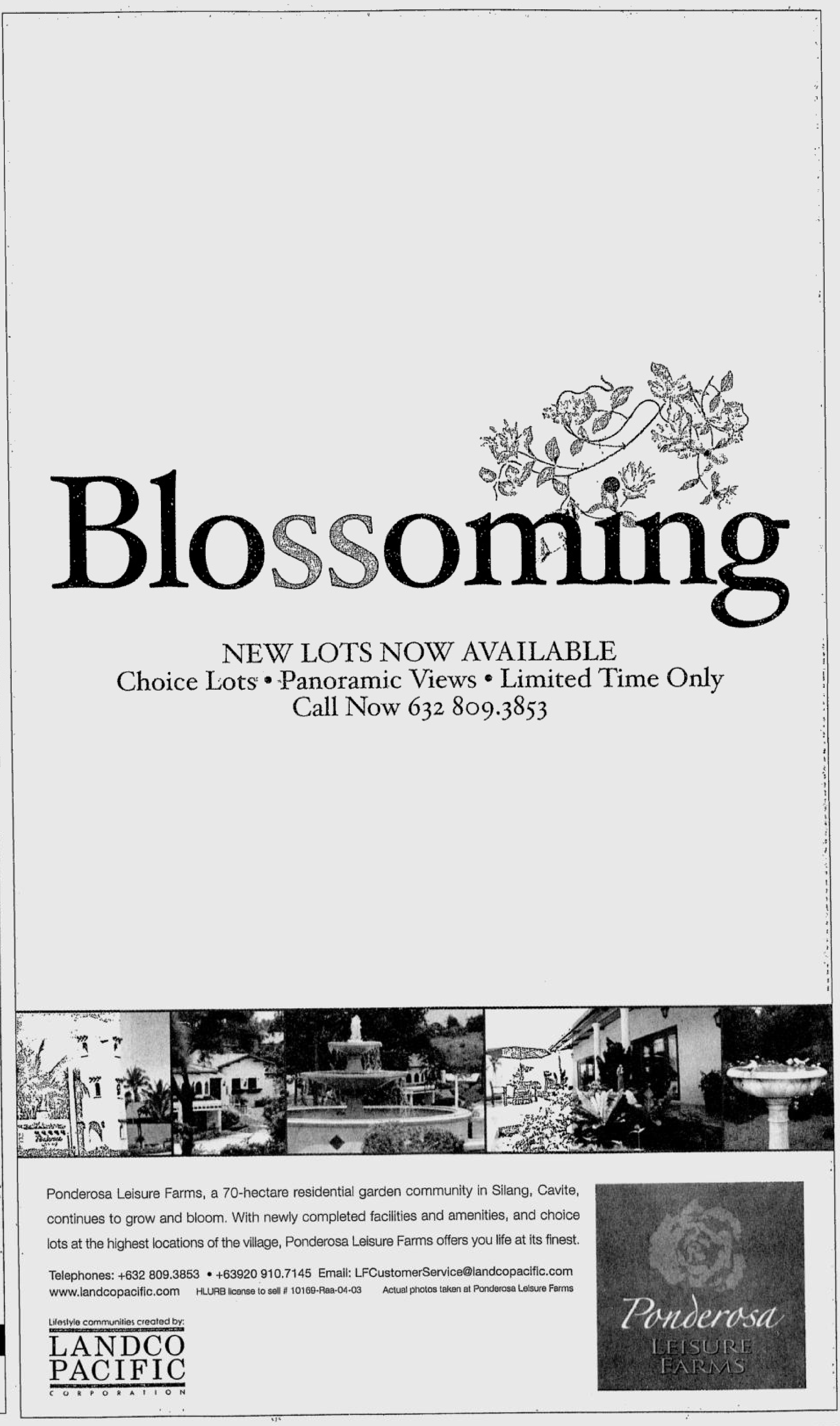
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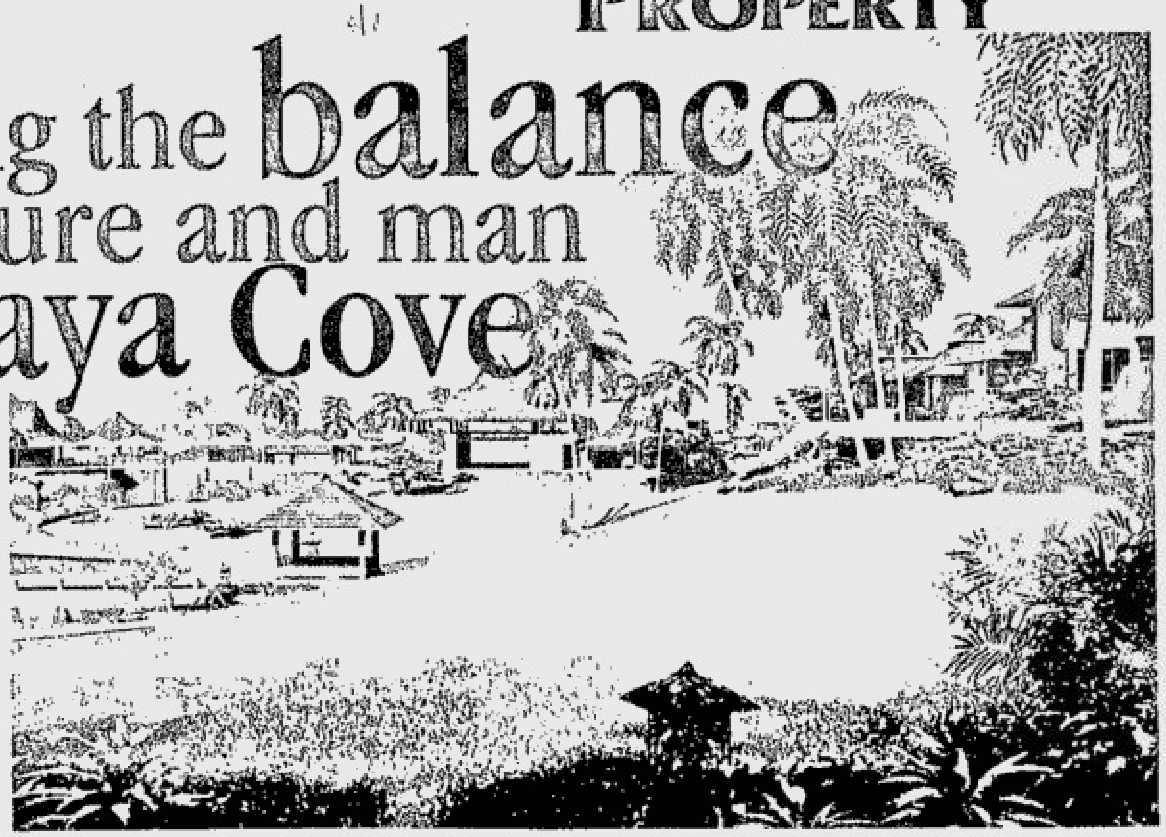
Achieving the balance of nature and man at Anvaya Cove



THE GREAT lawn of Anvaya Cove represents how the development perfectly preserved the natural terrain and elevation to create the perfect venue for family gatherings, events and outdoor games.

CREATING A PARADISE conducive to family bonding and building memories lies at the core of the leisure community known as Anvaya Cove, Ayala Land's first leisure development near Subic Bay.

The challenge has been great for DQA, the environmental design company tapped by ALI to complement its decades of experience and expertise in the real-estate development industry. The duties of DQA involve creating a landscape that preserves the breathtaking natural characteristics of the land while enhancing the leisure retreat for its future guests and residents.

DQA president Frank Borja summed up in two words the goal of the task that they face—"achieving balance."

Perfect description

Said Borja:."Well-balance is the perfect description for the whole of the Anvaya Cove development. There won't be this urban environment that's going to swallow up the natural environment. Instead we made sure that there is a good balance between the built areas and the natural environment."

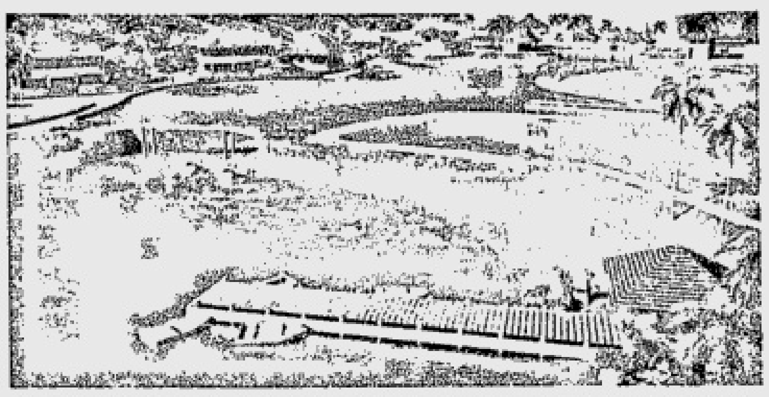
Thus, the guidelines defined by Ayala Land for DQA steered the landscaping toward ensuring that every component of the development works with nature, enhancing it to achieve an even higher level of pleasure and enjoyment for residents and visitors with minimal alteration to the natural lay of the land.

One case in point is the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club, which embraces a natural catchbasin. This basin will be further enhanced to become a perfect habitat for indigenous waterfowl, and complementary wetland type of plant materials will be added to promote a healthier eco-system that recharges the groundwater instead of allowing it to flow straight into the sea.

Another example is the way DQA delineated the roadwork, which hugs the rolling hills in a relaxing, meandering path while opening up to grand views of the development and the sea.

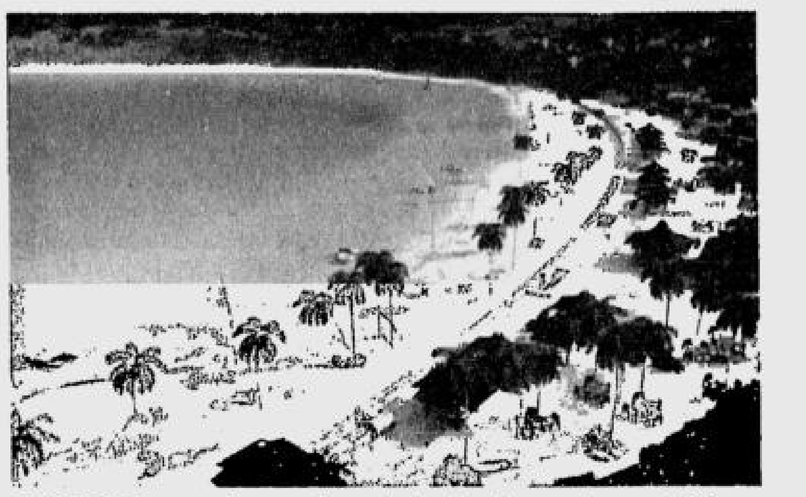
Masterplanned dev't

"How the development was masterplanned plays a big part in achieving the balance. We're talking about wildlife corridors and natural waterways, where animals actually traverse through the site, so we want to make sure that the development doesn't impede any of these," Borja explained.



BUILT within a natural catchbasin, the lagoon offers alterative water activities such as fun hours fishing or simply lounging around in a rowboat, while also function as a perfect habitat for indigenous fowl.

Indeed the variety of flora and fauna within Anvaya Cove serves to raise family bonding experiences to another level. This inspired Borja and his team, as they worked closely with the architects and civil engineers to ensure the integrity of the natural terrain and elevation, minimizing road cuts and strategizing structure placements to make nature a true part of the project.



THE 1.2-KM natural cove, where the land embraces the crystal blue sea, forms the centerpiece for the picturesque Anvaya Cove.

Mango and calumpang trees, some rising up to 9 meters high, abound the property and amazed Borja and the DQA team, who worked hard to preserve these groves in order to convey a sense of permanence and maturity that is rarely seen in new leisure developments.

Practical decision

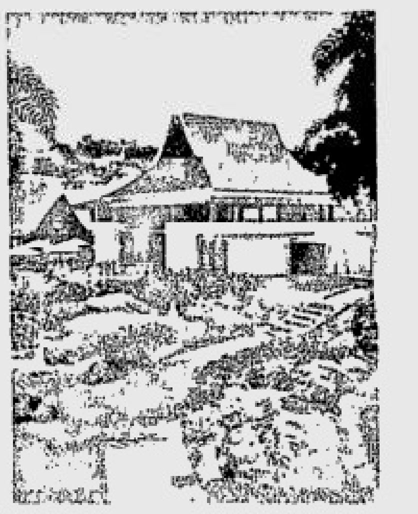
While preserving the natural foliage, the team also added new plant materials and ornamentals near the building sites. This was a practical decision to help cut down on the irrigation and maintenance needs of the site, since the natural plants have already proven to be drought and saltwater tolerant. The objective of this careful planning of the team will help attain a measure of self-sustainability for the landscapes in the long-term.

"We don't want a high-maintenance development, but one which has a sense of place. Thus, the landscaping should grow with the development over the years and not be something that needs to be changed every season," Borja stressed.

He also explained this design philosophy ensured that the majority of the man-made landscape elements are centered in the vicinity of the Beach and Nature Club, which is a large open-air pavilion constructed out of wood. This area will soon be the hub of the active lifestyle in the community, where families can enjoy all sorts of experiences and interaction in a more controlled setting that is conducive to bonding moments.

Landscaping attractions

One of the club's central landscaping attractions is a complex of pools, the design of which combines the vast feeling of the open seas and a setting where people can dip and interact. As such, the pool evolved into a shape that has more edges to it, to allow groups of people to relax and socialize while swimming.



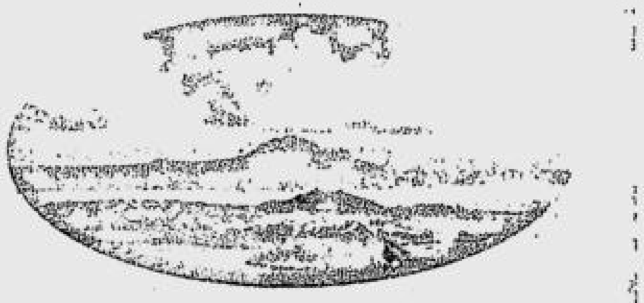
THE NATURAL foliage of the surrounding area is further enhanced around the Pavilion, where ornamental plants are placed for both esthetic reasons and maintenance practicality.

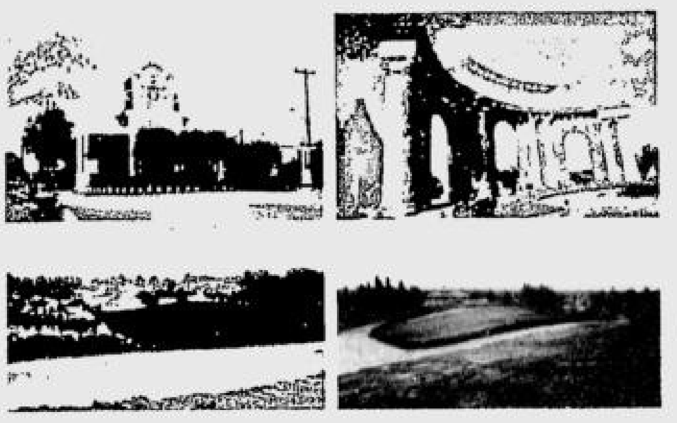
There is also an area that has been designed especially for kids. Here, they can frolic in a world that's truly made for them, complete with a pool, a wide assortment of activities, a fully equipped playground and round-the-clock security monitors for added safety. Definitely, parents and their children can also enjoy time away from each other without leaving the development.

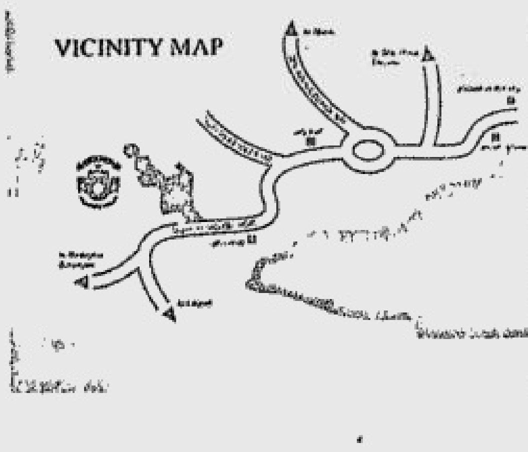
One significant landscaping effort on site was that done to preserve the natural nesting site of the native sea turtles or *pawikans*. Borja explained that the team took great effort and care to ensure that these sea creatures still gain unrestricted access to their nesting grounds while creating a sand area that is perfect for beach activities and picnics.

The landscaping of Anvaya Cove represents a fine, balanced relationship between man and nature—an achievement made possible through the combined efforts of Ayala Land and DQA, whose vision and efforts have created a true sanctuary where families can truly bond together and where nature can truly thrive.

To learn more about Anvaya Cove, visit its Makati Greenbelt showroom at Greenbelt 2 Garden near Italianni's and Segafredo or call 728-7000, 892-3333, e-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.anvayacove.com.







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SHDA eyes idle bank assets, overseas market, retirement industry

THE SUBDIVISION AND HOUSing Developers Association (SHDA) has explored the opportunities in tapping idle assets of financial institutions to spur the housing industry, further developing the overseas housing market, and batted for closer government-private sector efforts in promoting the country as a retirement destination for the world.

SHDA national president Willie Y. Uy and chair Marilu M. Alferez said the recent 2005 national convention of SHDA and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) in Bacolod City approved a resolution embodying various proposals discussed in workshops.

The SHDA, the country's largest organization of housing developers, is considered as the prime mover in the housing industry and government's partner in pushing for housing policy reforms.

SPV law, JV opportunities

On the issue of the special purpose vehicle law and the opportunities for joint ventures, SHDA asked that:

- The SPV law's provisions on capital requirements be amended to increase the flow of nonperforming assets transactions.
- Roadblocks to private sector participation in acquiring nonperforming assets of financial institutions be removed.
- Banking laws and other international reporting standards be enforced to discourage nondisposition by financial institutions of nonperforming assets.
- Valuation of nonperforming assets of private financial institutions be improved to make it more affordable or reasonable.

In matching developers with overseas housing marketing networks, SHDA urged a common government-private sector data base on OFWs socio-economic profile and demographic indicators, a common-shared marketing office for SHDA developers to enhance sharing of expertise and resources in reaching out to the OFWs, and a good collection system with remittance companies to minimize losses, delays and nonpayment of housing loans.

SHDA also sought an overall mechanism to showcase inventory of available housing units and advocate the grant of incentives and support to developers engaged in OFW housing projects.

RP retirement industry

On the issue of opportunities and potentials of the Philippine retirement industry, SHDA called on the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) itself to intensify the industry's promotion and on the private sector to join the PRA in establishing more retirement destinations and jointly promoting the retirement programs.

The Department of Trade and

SHDA/ B2-3

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

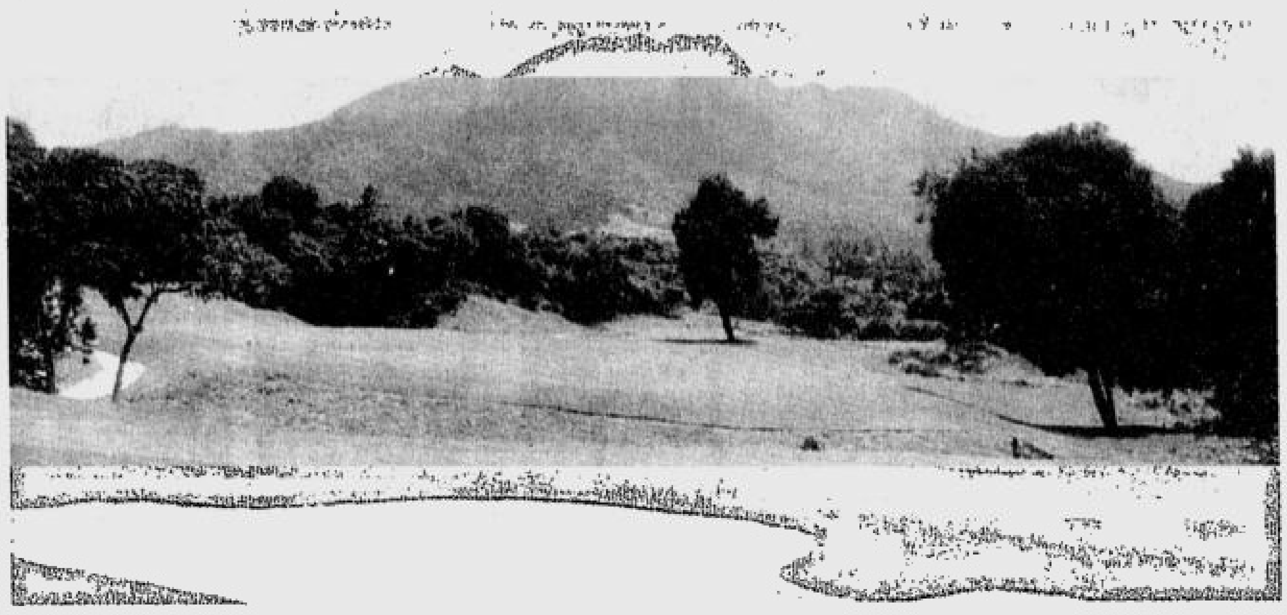
Wonderful piece of paradise

By Charles E. Buban

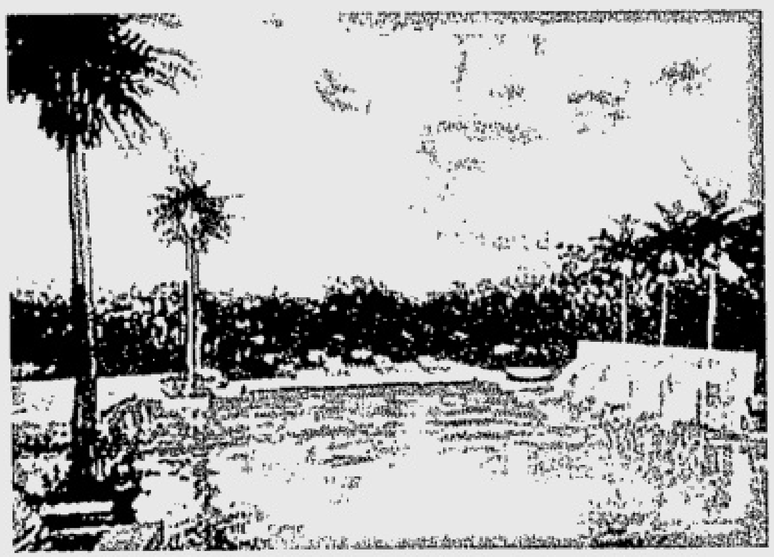
IT COMES AS A LITtle surprise to many that Calamba's real estate market is booming. This famous city in Laguna province is, after all, widely considered one of the most liveable places to reside.

No wonder Ayala Greenfield Development Corp., a joint venture between Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp., is here carving a 500-hectare prime residential and recreational development called Ayala Greenfield Estates.

WONDERFUL/B3-2



THE GOLF course offers an invigorating and naturally enthralling vista.



A LUSH pool area gives a luxe resort feel.

A lingering sense of space and the outdoors

TERRAZAS DE PUNTA FUEGO IN Nasugbu, Batangas, is filled with charming spots and distinct spaces, but none is more beloved than Amara en Terrrazas, Punta Fuego's newest lifestyle offering. This spot has been reserved for Amara en Terrazas from the very beginning, as a gift of unmatched beachfront experience for those who crave everyday vacation living with the convenience of a deluxe condo.

An impassioned connection to the sea and a love of the outdoors inspire the esthetic of Amara en Terrazas. Its design, inside and out, emulates the flowing nature and openness of the South China Sea, to which it looks toward, and delights in its beauty and blessings.

First seaside condo dev't

The first seaside condominium development in the country, Amara en Terrazas promises a brand of vacation living that's even more liberating and reassuring. Poised on a cliff, approximately 75 meters above sea level, every Amara residence enjoys absolutely unobstructed views of the mountains and the sea.

Amara en Terrazas is a study in fusion. East meets west in its architectural theme of Spanish Mediterranean and Asian Tropical. Its modern built environment blends with the natural setting, as it is embraced by the slope of a hill, and perched above a gleaming sea.

Achieving 2 key things

With this stunning geography as its backdrop and setting, every living moment in Amara en Terrazas is touched by a profound sense of its surroundings. All elements of the architecture and interior design have been thought of to achieve two key things—to bring nature in and expand space within.

As a result, large windows, balconies and extended eaves, providing for the seamless integration of the beautiful outdoors and modern interiors, dominate the architecture. The enclave itself will be surrounded with lush landscaping, meandering pathways and water features.

Designed to be a low-rise, low-density structure composed of several clusters, only the four upper floors of Amara will be seen from the street, while the three lower levels are on the ridge line. And yet every one of the 95 units looks out to a magnificent view that becomes every interior's grandest design element.

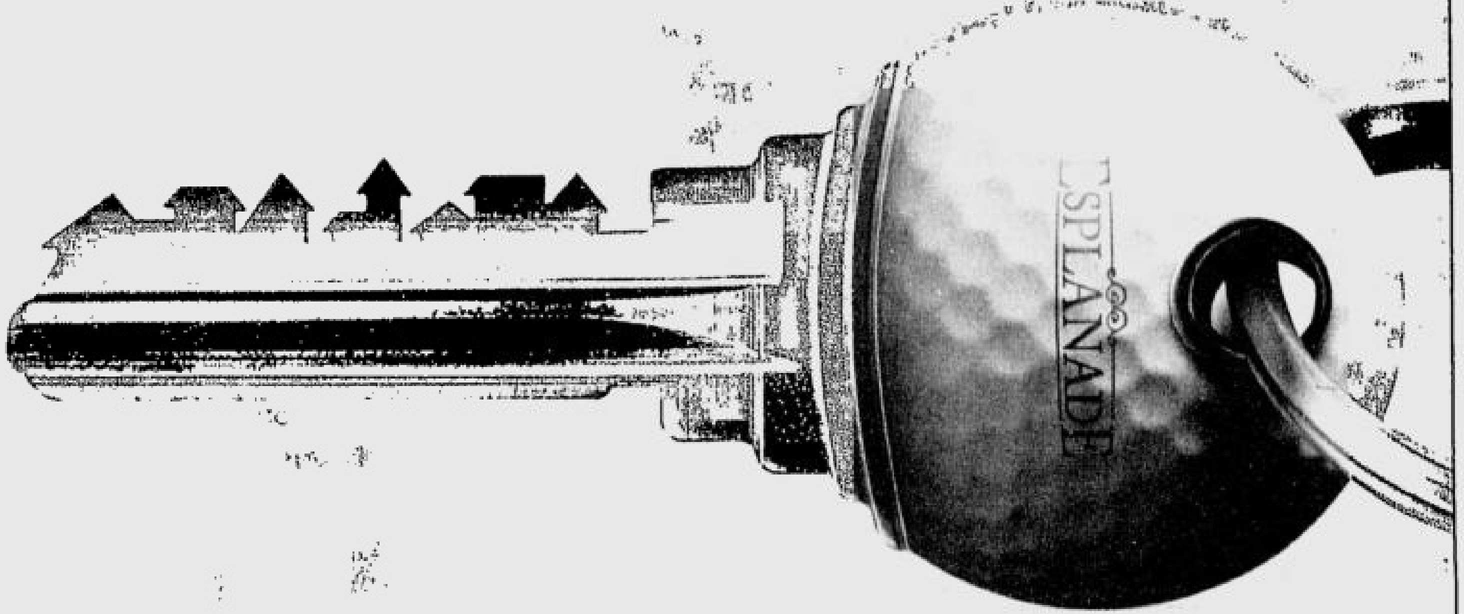
Ingenious planning

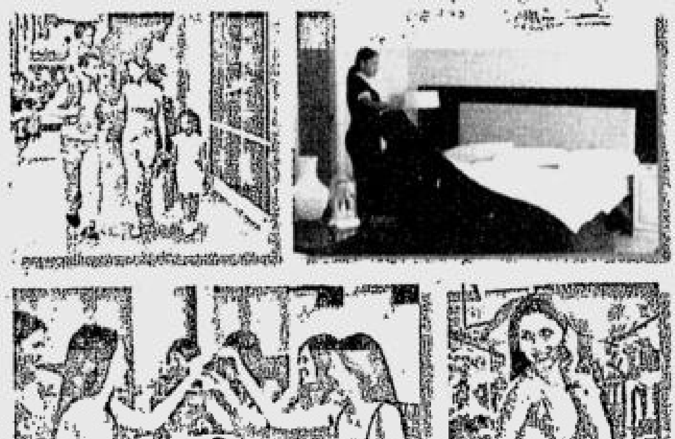
Grandeur of space is achieved through ingenious planning which imbues the units with an unmistakable feel of a luxe tropical paradise. Every residence features unique resort-style open-space planning, built in with "movable walls" to expand living space and afford absolute flexibility. Folding and sliding multipanel doors or frames separate the living room and dining area, becoming an open suite by day, and a private sanctuary by night.

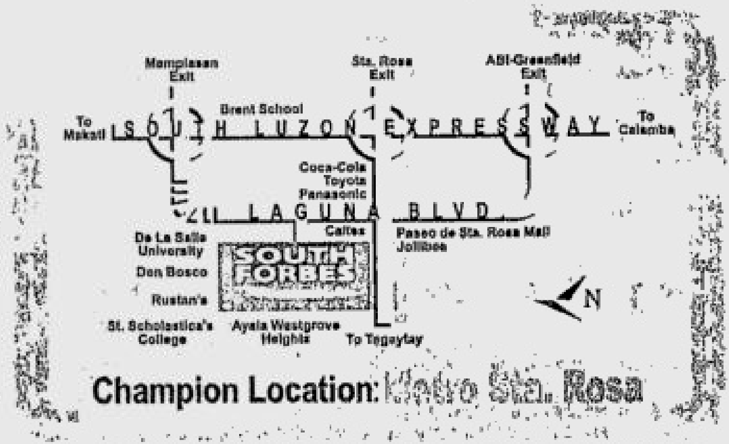
The natural environment is an ever-watching presence from its open-wall rooms and cathedral ceiling, whether ocean sunsets or cool sea breeze. The design eschews the traditional compartmentalized layout and allows you the freedom to either open up or cocoon inside.

And beyond the overwhelming sense of space and nature, Amara en Terrazas residences are further enhanced with luxury features and finishes. The garden units come with its own outdoor jacuzzi, and terrace and loft units are characterized by high-ceilinged areas and extended balconies. Outside of their homes, residents can enjoy exclusive access to the enclave's premium amenities, and at the same time indulge themselves in the various leisure facilities of Club Punta Fuego.

EVERY residence features unique resort-style open-space planning, built in with "movable walls" making your space an open suite by day and a private sanctuary by night.







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THE ESPLANADE features wide al fresco dining areas.

Experience urban living at the Esplanade

AS METRO STA. ROSA BEcomes the emerging boom town in the South, it now welcomes the best of urban living, with all the conveniences it can bring.

The Esplanade, just off the entrance to South Forbes Golf City and within a stone's throw away from the main entrance of Laguna Technopark, brings the ultimate form of urban convenience. Residents can live, shop, dine, work and unwind within the confines of this Asian-inspired building.

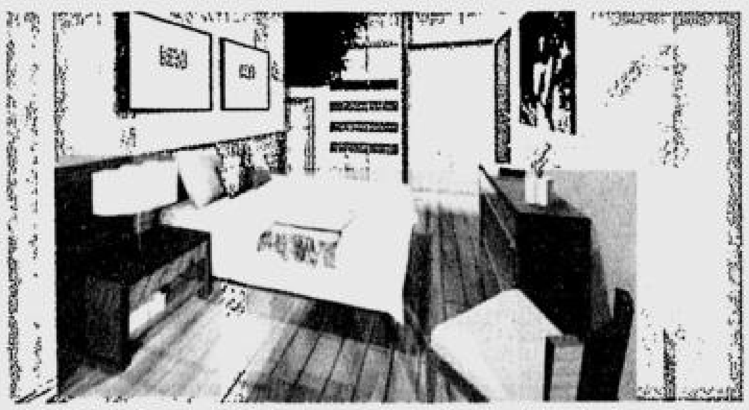
As the first lifestyle condominium project in Metro Sta. Rosa, the Esplanade is a mixed-type development. Residents can sample the best cuisines and delicacies, plus shop in trendy boutiques in the ground floor commercial area. Mail, Internet, and laundry shops are ready to respond to their daily needs at the services shops alley.

And after a hard day's work, they just have to go up and experience modern living in their standard or loft unit. All of these conveniences come at a really good price—as low as P12,500 monthly for a one-bedroom unit.

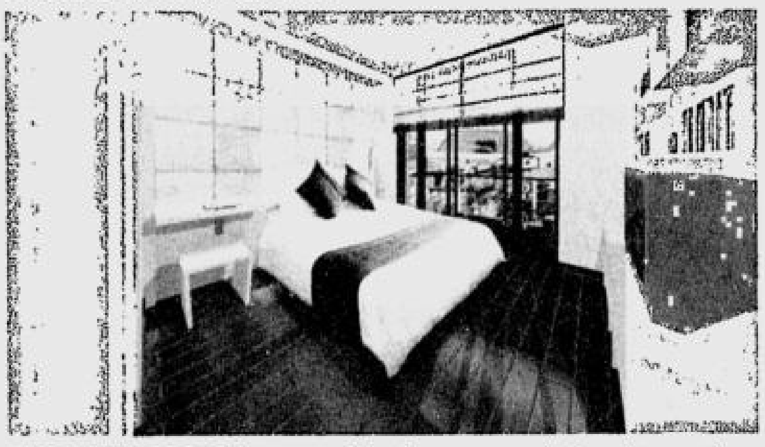
Business opportunities

Business-minded individuals can also seize opportunities waiting at the Esplanade's ground floor commercial area. They can open a coffee shop, boutique, specialty bakery, or top salon.

Managing a business and raising a family upstairs at the same time are truly convenient at the Esplanade. An assurance that their business will surely click is a steady stream of well-heeled clients.



THE INTERIORS of the Esplanade were inspired by the best of Singaporean design elements.



THE INTERIORS of the master's bedroom were designed to soothe the senses.

South Forbes' proximity to Laguna Technopark and its prime location beside upscale neighborhoods such as Ayala Westgrove Heights and San Miguel Properties' Wedge Woods will ensure a ready, captured market for their business.

Int'l golfing lifestyle

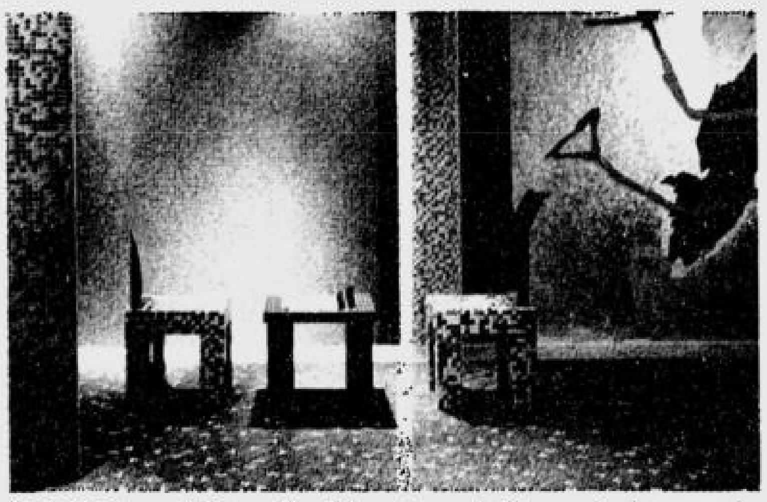
Investors of The Esplanade also make a hole-in-one with their condominium investment: free membership to the 18-hole, all-weather South Forbes Golf Club designed by Asia's leading golf course designer, the International Management Group (IMG).

As the first and only affiliate of IMG SportsClub in the Philippines, investors of the Esplanade will get to experience the international golfing lifestyle. They will enjoy preferred access and special discount privileges in 42 top golf courses worldwide, including the Nirwana Bali Golf Club, the Laguna Phuket Golf Club in Thailand, and the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco.

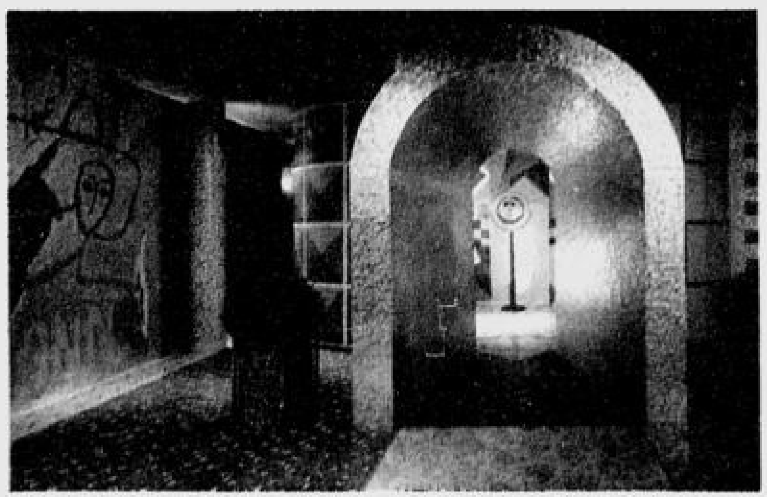
Take hold of this exciting opportunity to experience urban living in Metro Sta. Rosa as only the South Forbes Esplanade can bring you and your family.

Call (02) 635-8108 or (02) 636-4647 or click www.southforbes.com.

Bisazza's glamorous glass tiles



"CASA Bisazza." The walls of the entrance hall are entirely covered in the glass mosaics using various blends of colors.



THE ENTRANCE hall. To the sides of the gold mosaic tunnel, the flower box called "Arborea Bassa" designed by Oscar Tusquets

CULLING FROM THE TIME-HONORED TRADITION of Venetian glassmaking and incorporating new technological innovations, it is small wonder that mosaics created from Bisazza's glass tiles have been hailed as veritable works of art.

These artworks, found in the most elegant hotels and opulent private homes, provide incandescence of an almost tactile quality, luxurious textures and colors of wide range and depth. Like true masterpieces, Bisazza's glass mosaic tiles provide points of interest that are arresting for their singular beauty, form and quality.

While the painstaking process of creating mosaic dates back to ancient times, Bisazza has advanced the practice into a heightened form of art. By exploiting modern manufacturing techniques, the company has created glass tiles of variable colors and unique textures.

Mosaic tiles

As a company on the cutting edge of glass tile manufacturing, Bisazza takes pride in its mosaic tiles that run the gamut from pastel to earthy to metallic, and textures that are glass smooth, grainy, pitted, striated, or rippled. These tiles make for the most versatile materials in creating breathtaking interior and exterior spaces. They can dress up walls, floors, swimming pools and furniture, providing a focal point, an accent, or a setting for other pieces.

Exercising creativity

Because of their innate flexibility, Bisazza glass tiles give the interior designer or homeowner ample space to exercise creativity. Bathroom walls, for instance, can be canvases for mosaic murals depicting celestial bodies, Egyptian mythology, or Andy Warhol-esque pop art. Boutique floors can be suggestive of the store's main merchandise. A snakeskin-patterned walkway would create an exotic atmosphere for a bags-and-shoes shop, for example.

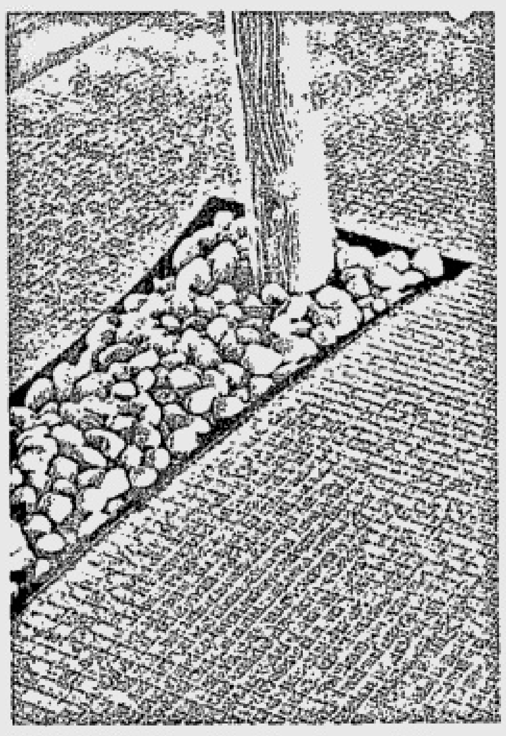
Glass mosaics can be thread-less carpets or soil-less garden extensions, gilded frames for plain windows or non-staining wallpapers, and nonliquid paints for building façades or sparkling borders for swimming pools.

But perhaps, the most evocative expression of luxury can be achieved using specialty mosaic using Bisazza Oro, tiles that feature 24-carat gold or pure platinum sandwiched between two glass layers. Used as a mosaic, these tiles lend a rich, breathtaking sheen that spells opulence. In addition, the company also manufactures glass tiles in traditional vitreous finish which, when used with the Venetian avventurina stone, gives off a glittering, jewel-like sparkle.

World leader

Founded in 1956, Bisazza leads the world in creating the most innovative glass mosaic products. From its beginnings as a local business carrying on the tradition of the first Italian arts-and-crafts industries, Bisazza has developed into a manufacturing firm spurred by a strong entrepreneurial spirit and an ability to see the way the market is evolving.

Based in Vicenza, Italy, Bisazza has become the leading name in glass mosaic tiles preferred by the most eminent designers and private homeowners in Europe, the Middle East and North America. It has also extended its popularity among the elegant set of the Far East, particularly Japan, Hong Kong, Macau and Korea.



THE SHOE Shop: The Shop's mosaic floor consists of 20 x 20 mm tiles from the Oro (Gold) series.

Bisazza glass tiles, sold in square meters, are distributed in Metro Manila and Cebu by various dealers such as Adventure Import/Export, Centro Ceramica, Citikonstruk, Eurokonzept, Euroasia, Federal Design Expo, Filhome Builders, Gruppo Armani, Homepart, Home Studio, La Europa Ceramica, Libertystile, SDK Prestige Tiles, Tile Gallery, Unisia, Wilcon Depot, Wilcon Supply, Build It, Cebu Bionic Builders, EBCO, I-Trade, Robins Home Depot, Steel & Stone. Professional tesserae installers can be recommended upon request.

Wonderful piece

From page B3-1

The draw? No surprise there: weather, lifestyle and location.

"The place Ayala Greenfield Estates is located in enjoys the coolest climate in the region and the fact that it is elevated 340 meters above sea level at its highest point, one would be literally living at a hilltop enjoying views of the sky, sea, mountains and plains," describes Ayala Land Premiere SVP Angela de Villa-Lacson.

Little piece of paradise

She says the property is being developed as a little piece of paradise that its future residents should love and spend as many weekends as possible coming to.

"Imagine seeing the Laguna De Bay, Manila Skyline, Laguna Plains, Tagaytay Ridge, or Mt. Makiling, right at your window. Here at the Ayala Greenfield Estates, we want our future residents to enjoy going back into the arms of nature," said Lacson.

Ayala Land Premiere AVP for Land and Houses Tommy Mirasol adds that the property is almost a secluded enclave reserved for those wishing to experience luxury living.

Exclusive privileges

Mirasol says manicured gardens and stately architecture define this Calamba haven.

The Village Clubhouse is designed by no less than Leandro V. Locsin Partners which boasts of a social hall, a gym, aerobics area, massage and locker rooms, a coffee shop and a game room.

Outside, the clubhouse features a fishing lagoon, an infinity pool, a kiddie swimming pool, a multipurpose skating rink and a children's playground.

There is also the view corridor that according to Lacson serves as a symbolic connection between Mt. Makiling and Laguna plains. It traverses almost 500 meters of downhill slope and covering close to two hectares of land.

"Here, one can enjoy lush greens with pools of water cascades, winding trails for hiking and jogging designed by IP Santos and landscaped by Gardens by Sanders," reveals Mirasol.

He adds that Ayala Greenfield Estate also features a 15-hectare nature park that has everything from indoor and outdoor basketball courts, open play field to village orchard, tree groves, biking and hiking trails as well as picnic grounds, and even camping sites.

BEHIND THE AYALA Greenfield's ongoing success is Ayala Land Premiere's Lacson and Mirasol.

WITH THE 18-HOLE golf course now playable, lot buyers will now be able to take advantage of the its world-class facilities.

World-class golf course

Ayala Greenfield Estates is also full of exclusive privileges for its lot buyers including a share in its world-class golf course, an 18-hole, par 72, all-weather, championship golf course conceptualized by world-renowned designer Robert Trent Jones Jr.

"The course promises to be a very scenic, inspiring and of course challenging for every level of players. Everything about this golf course is top quality," promises Lacson.

No wonder Lacson reveals that they have already sold 572 lots (ranging from 311 sq m to 1,833 sq m and the prices of which are between P4 million and 20 million).

Says Lacson: "This only shows Ayala Greenfield Estates is fast becoming the best community to build one's weekend or retirement homes south of Metro Manila."

Award-winning home furniture brand now in RP

By Charles E. Buban

IN 1988, THE FOUNDERS OF BELL'O OF the United States decided to build contemporary furniture systems—with Italian and modern continental design—that would accommodate various types of modern equipment in one's living room, entertainment centers or theater rooms.

"Bell'O's intention was to fit their distinctly designed products into any modern home setting," says Wilson So, president and GM of Eleksis Marketing, Bell'O's exclusive distributor here.

So adds that these pieces of furniture are meant to enhance today's audio/video equipment that would include all types of television sets (including flat screen, plasma, liquid crystal display and projection) as well as speaker systems.

Three materials

"Each Bell'O product is constructed from a combination of three different materials—metal, wood and glass. The metal part is covered with a high-impact, scratch-resistant, powder-coated finish while shelves are fitted with perforated metal or high-quality tempered safety glass," describes So.

"Bell'O audio/video furniture, audio stands and speaker stands also feature the company's patented cable management system that securely hides power cords and interconnecting cables and keeps home theater layout clutter-free and looking great," reveals So.

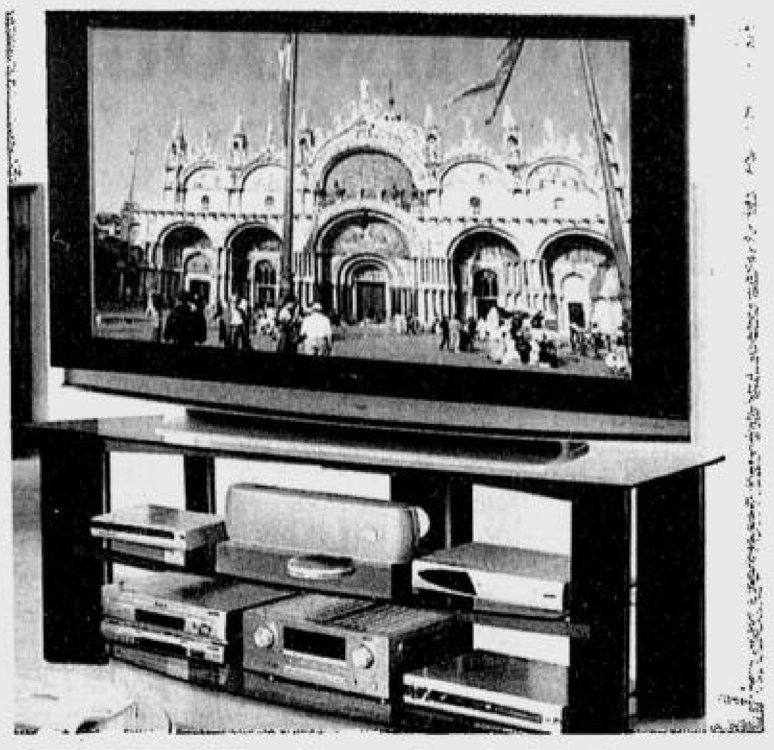
Headlines

So says that since 2001, Bell'O has been making headlines with its award winning designs.

Says So: "Every year, Electronic House magazine selects products for its highly regarded Product of the Year award. For five years straight, Bell'O products has topped the list with its innovative styling. It even has designs that coveted the prestigious Innovations in Design and Engineering Showcase award presented every year at the prominent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas."

This year, Bell'O was once again cited for designing the AVS-2752HG model that features high-gloss black finish that matches the latest liquid crystal display and digital light processing television sets sold in the market today.

Bell'O products is now available in all Bose outlets located at the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell Center, Glorietta 3 in Ayala Center Makati, Festival Supermall in Alabang, SM North Edsa in Quezon City, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong and Robinsons Place in Ermita.



A BELL'O PRODUCT combines metal, wood and glass into one seamless work of art

A new way of remembering our loved ones

ALTHOUGH THE SITE IS FILLED WITH THE remains of about 400 departed souls, its ambiance is far from being gloomy. The landscaping is befitting of a romantic park of Paris or Kensington Garden in London. Children are free to frolic in a lush garden nearby. When night falls, the place beautifies even more with its trees dramatically illuminated with tea lights.

This is The Columbary of Santo Niño de Cebu, owned and maintained by the Augustinian Fathers. A columbary, derived from the Latin word columba, is a depository of urns containing the cremated remains of the departed.

Located inside the Augustinian Fathers' seminary on Visayas Road in Quezon City, The Columbary is also a depository of remarkable artwork by renowned contemporary Filipino artists. An example is the Lady in Distress by sculptor Michael Cacnio. The imposing sculpture stands 18 feet high and is made of solid brass. Other well-known artists involved in the project are Claude Tayag, national artist Napoleon Abueva and interior designer Yolly Zimmer.

Most integral part

Another work of art is the most integral part of the Columbary, its chapel, called the Sanctuary. It was constructed in the tradition of the Augustinians, known to be church builders themselves for centuries. With a floor area of 3,000 square meters that can accommodate 1,500 persons, its proportions are comparable to that of a cathedral. The chapel's vaults are of pink Italian granite set under stations of stained glass illustrating the life of Saint Augustine.

In contrast with The Columbary's red brick walkways are the dark green granite vaults bordering the area. Once purchased, a vault comes with a transferable certificate of ownership, which also could be used as collateral.

"Our vaults are registered under the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB)," says Elizabeth "Liz" Reyes, president of Redoble Development Corp., the Columbary's developer. "Ninety percent of our buyers, when we take them to the site, they buy. Right then and there, the deal is closed," she adds.

Reyes' previous background in real estate development has prepared her well for the task of handling the business' marketing side.

Says Reyes: "We need to move away from the traditional dark and fearful notions of a cemetery. It is a disservice to those who have gone before us."

During the initial stages of the Columbary's development, potential buyers were not receptive to the concept, reluctant especially to the practice of cremation. "Three years ago, you could not imagine that it would be like this, that we would be trendsetters of the memorial business," she says.

Marketing strategy

Slowly, through their market campaign strategy, the future pioneers would gain acceptance. "We have a very aggressive marketing team and marketing strategy, that's why we were able to move it quickly," Reyes says. Their ad campaigns include witty and eye-catching slogans such as "Invest in an ash hole."

"Nobody is developing memorials anymore here in the metropolis," Reyes says. With overcrowding resulting from urbanization, a single columbary niche favorably uses less space than an individual grave does. It is neither as costly nor as complex as in a traditional burial.

The concept makes it possible for one to preplan his future arrangements, alleviating both financial and emotional burdens imposed on those left behind, stresses Reyes. Columbary urns may even be brought home during special occasions.

"Everybody's thinking they want to put up a columbary," says Reyes, who adds churches to the list of builders. It may very well be said that traditional burials are "losing ground."

"Since the columbary vaults will not be sealed shut, urns can be brought home for special occasions," says Reyes. In addition, a special key is installed allowing relatives to pull out the urns anytime they wish to.

"We are offering a new way of ... a paradigm shift so to speak ... from costly memorial lots and caskets to a more practical and economical way of honoring our beloved departed without losing the dignity and respect we accord our loved ones," Reyes adds.

BRENTVILLE
International Community

My five-year old can say "Hello" in six languages.

All images are actual photos taken from the site.

PROMINENCE II townhouses

MAIN CLUBHOUSE and POOL

KASSANDRA house model

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Cottonwoods, Crown Asia's thriving sanctuary

WHERE CAN YOU FIND a residential haven without having to leave the metro?

Where in the concrete jungle can you find a quaint community with cool temperatures amid elevated, gently rolling terrain; breathe in clean and fresh air; live in a natural and unspoiled environment with century-old tree; wake up to the chirping of birds in the morning; and gaze at the starlit sky from your balcony, or marvel at the sight of fireflies outside your door?

Everyday escape

Turning dreams into realities with masterplanned neighborhoods, real estate pioneer Crown Asia offers an everyday escape from the aggravations of the metropolis with the new model homes for its thriving community where artists and families desiring a haven of functional beauty interspersed with nature found home—Cottonwoods at Antipolo, Rizal.

With more than 40 hectares of sprawling terrain, the full-blown neighborhood of Cottonwoods has attracted hundreds of families and individuals with Antipolo's unique topography which allows the innovative design of its model homes.

Inspired by the rustic ambiance and architecture of American country-style homes usually found in the state of Maine, the streets at Cottonwoods are lined with trees, white picket fences serving more as a distinct detail than a division, while porches with colorful flower beds welcome its residents. The primary phase of Cottonwood Heights is now joined by the other phases Foilage and Cascades 1 and 2, with the Cascades 2 as the most recent.

Model homes

Enthused by the evident success of Cottonwoods, Crown Asia creates a new selection of American ranch-inspired model homes evoking warmth and possessing functional beauty that embrace the natural topography of Antipolo—whether flat, sloped, downhill or uphill:

- **Amber.** Taking advantage of Antipolo's breathtaking views while maximizing space with careful planning, the Amber model is perfect for couples and families wishing to begin a new life. Wide windows and a balcony offer more than expansive views; ventilation is also improved with these features. It has a minimum floor area of 90 square meters on minimum of 204-sq-m lot with three bedrooms, two toilets and baths and a separate toilet and bath for the master's bedroom, dining and living area, kitchen, lanai and maid's room. Price starts at P3.7 million.

- **Dogwood.** With more space and practical features, the Dogwood model is suitable for growing families. The architecture is ingenious with the interesting partitions for multifunctional areas and an open-below feature which creates a sense of flowing space throughout the home. It has a floor area of 132 sq m on a minimum of 180-sq-m lot with a master's bedroom with its own toilet and bath, walk-in closet and powder room, two bedrooms, two toilets and baths, lanai, porch and maid's room with toilet and bath. Price starts at P4.7 million.

- **Willow.** The Willow model is suited for families with increasing needs while meeting their requirements for a secure home with the improved floor system and ceiling framing. It also boasts of the open-below feature along with a master's bedroom with its own toilet and bath, walk-in closet and powder room, two bedrooms, two toilets and baths, lanai, porch and maid's room with toilet and bath. Willow has a floor area of 132 sq m on a minimum of 218-sq-m lot. Price starts at P5 million.

- **Chestnut.** A large family will find the Chestnut a luxurious option with more spacious family area and living room enhanced by the typical American home's high pitched ceiling to allow better circulation of fresh air. It has a minimum floor area of 118 sq m on a minimum of 216 sq m lot with a master's bedroom with its own toilet and bath, walk-in closet and powder room, two bedrooms, two toilets and baths, balcony, family area, lanai, porch, and maid's room with toilet and bath. Price starts at P4.4 million.

- **Maple.** The largest of the five models and with lavish features, the Maple model meets the demands and desires of large families. The open-below feature with the balcony, porch and lanai generates a sense of more space throughout the whole house and flows to the outdoors. The Maple has a minimum floor area of 148 sq m on a minimum of 252-sq-m lot with a master's bedroom with its own toilet and bath, walk-in closet and powder room, two bedrooms, two toilets and baths, balcony, family area, den, lanai, porch, maid's room with toilet and bath, and a carport that can accommodate two vehicles.

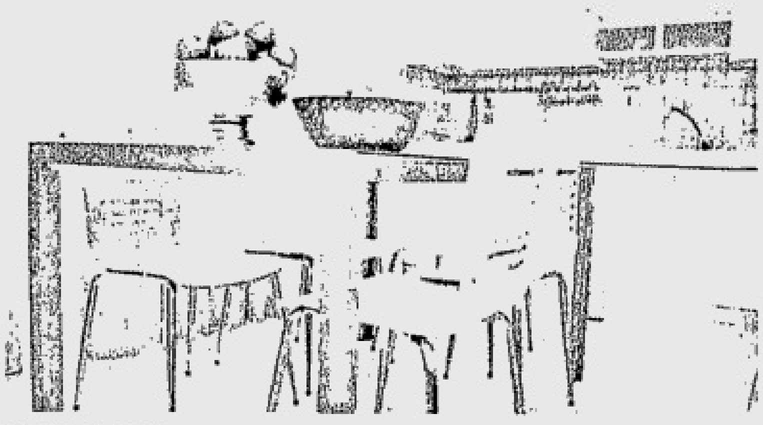
Amenities, facilities

Even the amenities and facilities at Cottonwoods evolve around Antipolo's unspoiled environment with the Fern Garden detailed with cobblestone paths and fountains, a Butterfly Sanctuary, and a park with bungalows. Residents need not leave the community for leisure with Cottonwoods' own multipurpose hall, bean-shaped pool with slide, basketball and tennis courts, playground and jogging trails bounded by lush landscaping. Getting to and from the commercial and corporate area of Ortigas is an easy 45-minute drive.

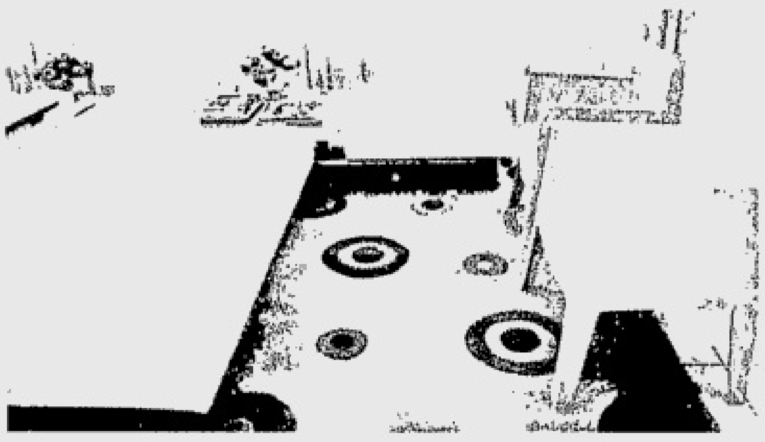
Guiding the thoughtful and effective masterplanning of past, present and future projects of Crown Asia are the five core values the firm persistently adheres to: greenery, security, choices, serenity and attainability.

At Cottonwoods, you live a life well-lived in a quaint haven amid breathtaking vistas. Property previews may be arranged by calling Crown North at 634-9001 and 634-9002.

CROWN Asia's Cottonwoods, an American-inspired thriving community



DINING room



LIVING room

THE MASTER'S bedroom, designed by Recio+Casas firm, is among Mactan Tower's three-bedroom unit which reflects the modern family's taste for fine things.

Bay Garden: home for the holidays

BAY GARDEN'S MACTAN TOWER guarantees its future residents that living in this California resort-inspired condominium feels like coming home to your own paradise every day. True to its promise, just a visit to the Mactan Tower showroom already gives you that peaceful, rejuvenating feeling—reminiscent of tranquil vacations by the sea.

The brainchild behind the serene, luxurious ambience of this stylish designer showroom is the gifted team of the Recio+Casas firm. Federal Land Inc. chose the Recio+Casas Architects for the firm's commitment to providing distinctive, innovative modern design.

Led by Bong Recio and Carmelo Casas, the many prestigious landmarks credited to its name include the First Pacific Bank in Hong Kong, Mandarin Hotel Macau and Thailand's Stock Exchange Building. Their firm was part of the group that designed the magnificent GT Tower in Makati, another much-acclaimed Federal Land project.

Like a tropical resort

Upon entrance, the designer showroom instantly reminds you of a tropical resort. Light-painted walls and cheery interiors illuminated by yellow lighting enhance its warmth and serene atmosphere. An inviting, cozy lounge area greets the guests, with its floor-to-ceiling windows, offering an awe-inspiring view of lush gardens glistening in the bright sunlight.

Out of the four featured model units artfully crafted by the country's top designers, the Recio+Casas team designed the three-bedroom model unit, with the urban paradise theme as their inspiration. "The whole idea was to set a mood that is atypical of most homes within the city. That is bringing a so-called resort ambiance into it," Recio +Casas Interior designer Jennifer Sawit said.

Holiday mood

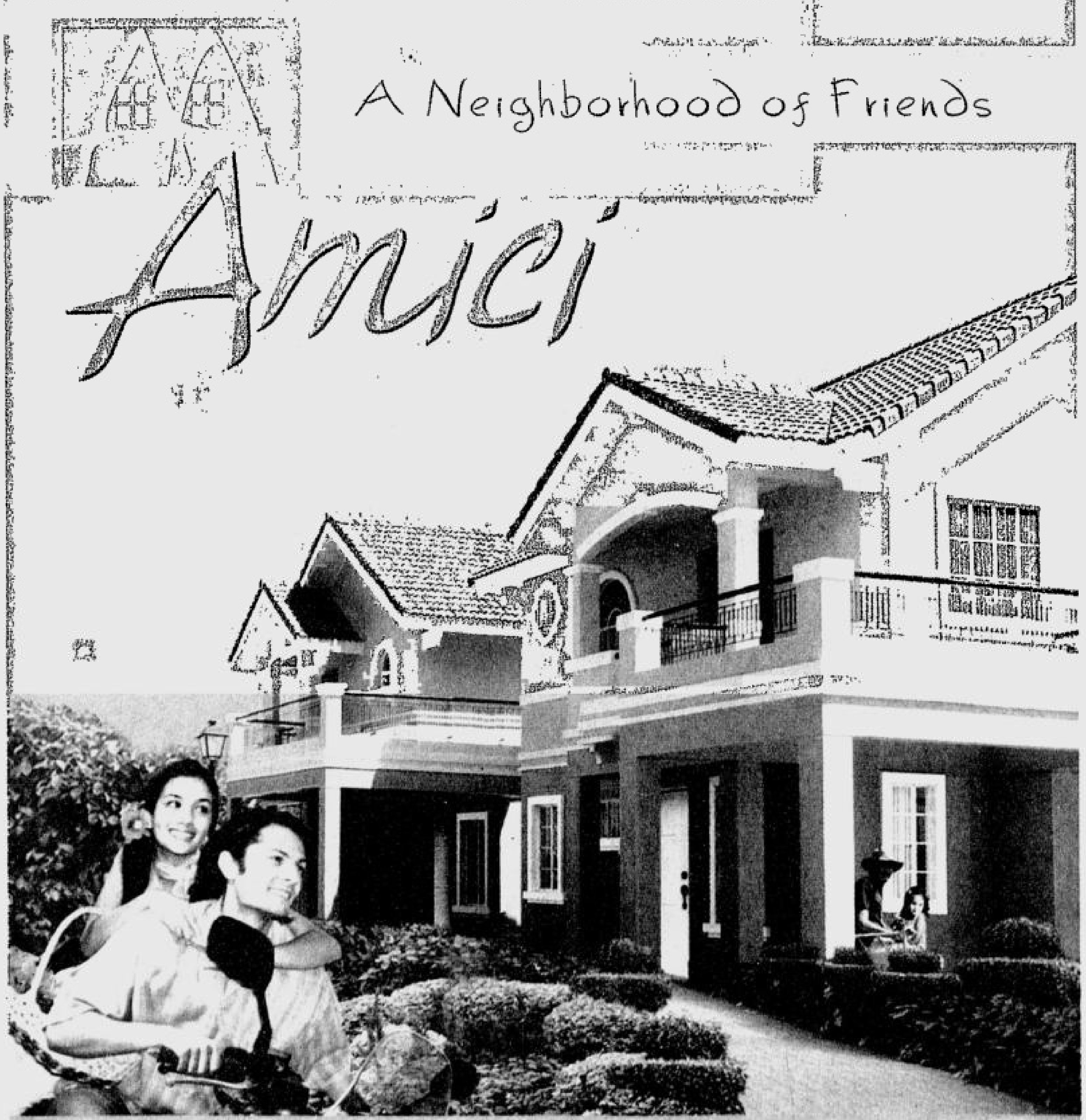
Sawit revealed that every unit was designed to create a relaxing holiday mood without exactly losing the look and feel of a home. "We chose natural finishes, neutral colors complemented by teak parquet for homeowners to feel they are not just going home but also, on vacation," she said.

"We really made sure the units had large windows for residents to view the glorious sunrise and breathtaking sunset at Manila Bay," architect Elmo Gavin added.

From the design layout to the choice of home accents, Bay Garden proved to meet the needs of varying lifestyles. The room reflects the stylish lifestyle of a modern family with taste for the finer things in life.

Architect Mags Salde attests it was a fruition of carefully laid-out plans with the homeowners needs in mind. "It's well thought of, and of course, we worked closely with Federal Land to ensure that our design is in line with the vision of Bay Garden."

Bay Garden is the residential jewel of 40-hectare Metropolitan Park, a fast-rising bayside community situated on Roxas Boulevard and Edsa extension. Highly accessible to and from key commercial and business areas, it is perfect setting for a home, complete with the finest resort amenities and everything you" ever need for a lifetime of plush living. To enjoy city life to fullest, live in Bay Garden. Call 889-6414 or 889-4900 or log on to www.federalland.com.ph for more details.



A Neighborhood of Friends

Amici

Within the radius of Daang Hari Road, Alabang will spring a community called Amici, the Italian word for "friend". Because like a true friend, Amici will give you and your family a complete sense of security and belongingness. Two guarded entry gates, high property fences, well-lit roads and a linear road will be put up to grace the community's interior. What's more, all homes along Amici's property line will be facing inwardly for better security and interaction among neighbors. This amicable atmosphere extends to its four model homes which will feature family-centered rooms and well accessorized kitchens and bathrooms.

Low monthly amortization starts at Php 12,000++

How to get there: From Alabang Town Center, take Daang Hari Road, enter through Southvale or through Springville Meadows near Molino Road.

Know more about Amici! Because like a good friend, what it reveals will draw you closer to it.
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005

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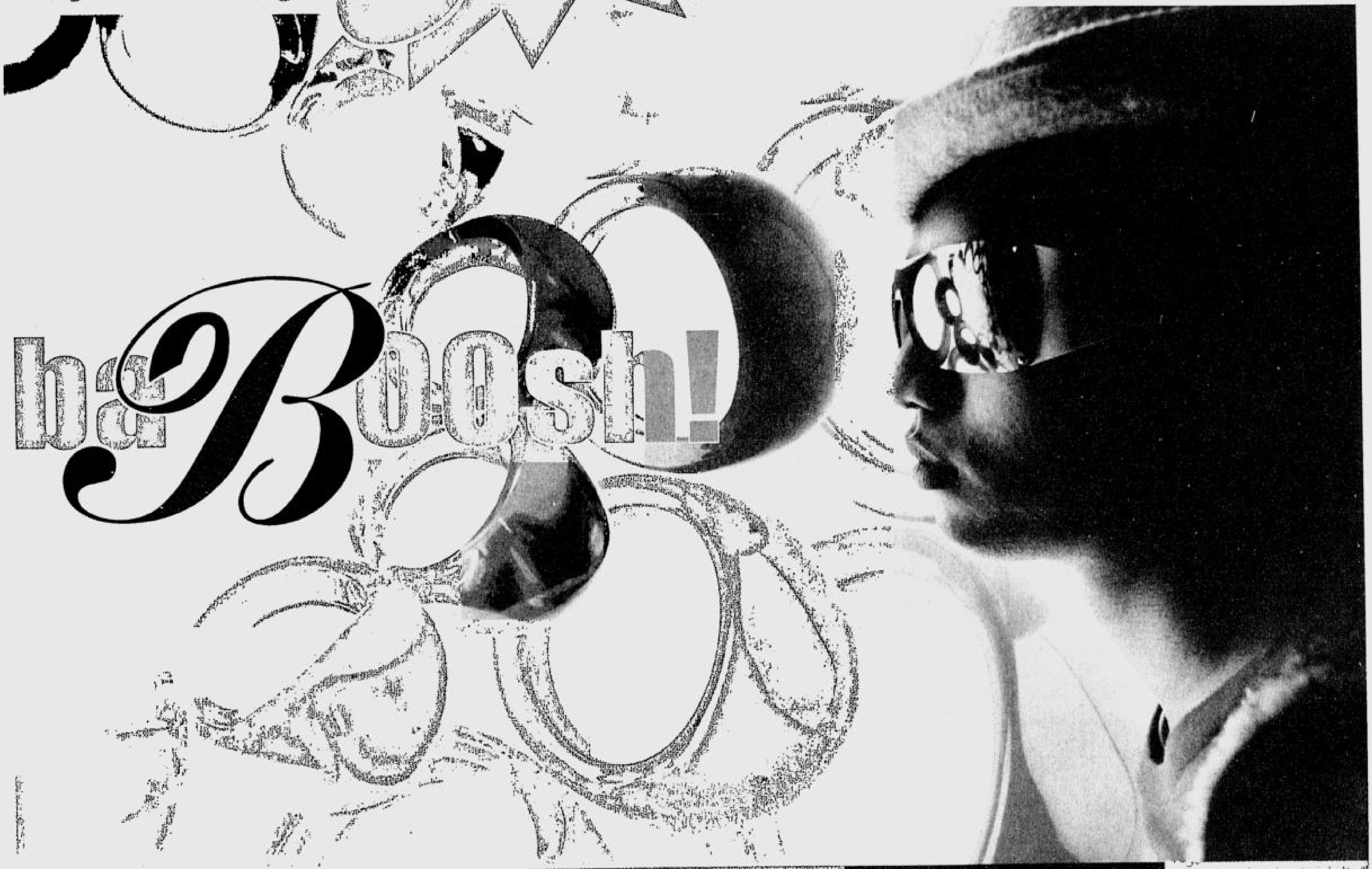

Bryanboy questions himself
page C2

Tals Diaz talks to spiders
page D1

Flying with 100 hairdressers
page E

Your Halloween party guide
page C3

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography STEVE TIRONA
Styling JENNI EPPERSON
Cover boy [illegible]

Baskets of treats and goodies abound to spread Christmas cheer all around at...
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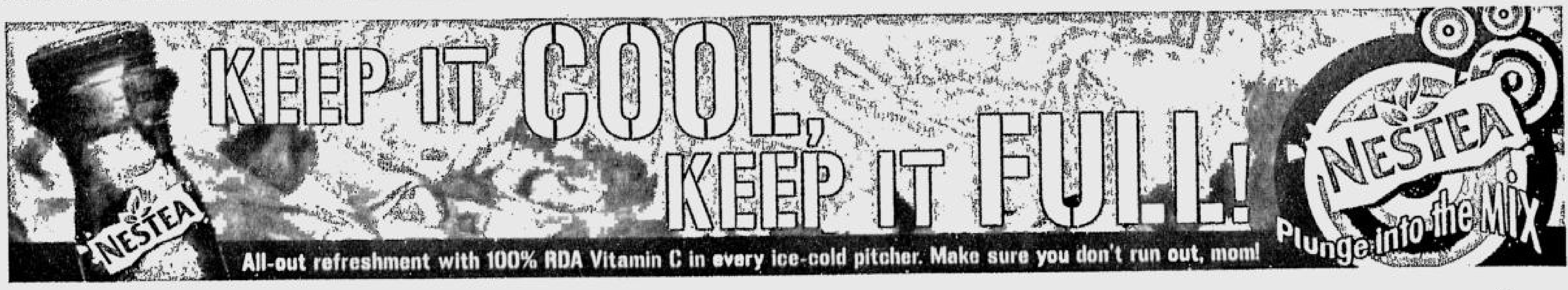
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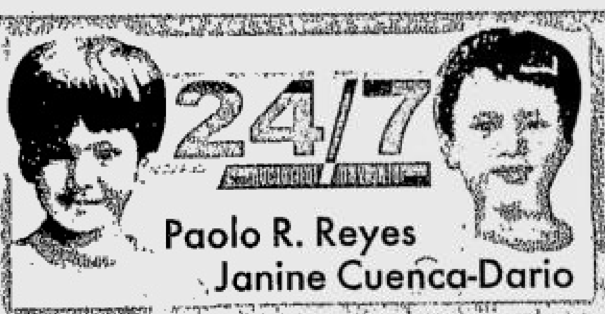

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Trick or Treat?

MOST OF YOU READING THIS ARE PROBABLY AT HOME, resting from a hectic week at work, while a few of you may be already lounging in an airport, just a plane ride away from a far-flung paradise. Long weekends like these tend to be a little conducive to wanderlust, yet the city slickers who remain in town for this "holy holiday" shouldn't feel as if they've been deserted in a ghost town (pun intended). Halloween fever heats up tonight in anticipation of the All Hallow's Eve happenings on Monday. Be sure to dress to impress. Who knows what the first prize may fetch?

The Great Space Scatter @ Embassy Superclub, 9 p.m. tonight

Come (in costume!) and take a ride at this outer space Halloween experience where Barbarella meets the Jetsons in one funkadelic trip hosted by Tim Yap, Erik Cua, Johnny Verse and Fernando Aracama. Be in your "funtasy, phantasy, fantastyc!" futuristic outfit and win a V-VIP prize from the Embassy ambassadors!

LoveBuzz: A Tribute to the Seattle Sound @ Saguijo, 9 p.m. tonight

How boring would the rock landscape be today without the early '90s arrival of The Grunge Movement? Pearl Jam. Nirvana. Alice In Chains. These are just a few of the bands that changed the face of rock for Generation X. Tonight, Saguijo [7612 Guijo St., Makati, phone: 897-8629] pays tribute to this truly Seattle sound in the hope that "the Grunge heart that beats in all of us will be resuscitated." Tension, Christmas Lights, Boy Elroy, Plane Divides the Sky, Dayone, Wild Mood Swings, and CopperPopThrill (CPT) perform.

The Kabuki Ball

The Kabuki Ball @ [illegible], [illegible] tonight

The Land of the Rising Sun descends upon the streets of Malate tonight for a sumo-sized outdoor Halloween bash… The Kabuki Ball! As if to herald the upcoming movie, Memoirs of a Geisha, it's time to unearth those kimonos and kabuki masks and start getting creative. The competition for the coveted "Best Costume of the Night" is tipped to be quite stiff. Manning the decks till the witching hours are DJs Cocoy Puyat, Travis Monsod, and Toy Armada. Call 404-3662 or visit www.bed.com.ph.

[illegible] @ [illegible]

After mounting the oh-so original German Silent Film Festival (where contemporary musicians like Rubber Inc. and Cynthia Alexander scored the silent classics on the spot), Goethe-Institut Manila launches another event that promises to merge music and cinema once again. They will screen three films that offer a unique glimpse of German youth and their music: "Status Yo!" (a behind-the-scenes look at the Berlin hip-hop scene), "Blind Flyers" (the tale of two blind teenage musicians), and the film festival sweeper "Rhythm Is It." Catch them next weekend at The Podium's Cinema 2 and at SM Baguio from Nov. 11 to 13. Call 722-4671 to 73.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

[illegible] Saturday

Cream Halloween Ball with DJ Gareth Wyn at Philippine Trade Training Center; Tribute to the Grunge Bands at Saguijo; Pump Saturdays with House DJs at Jill's; Supermodel Saturdays at Embassy Club; Steve Mills & Flava Street DJs at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Lush with Paolo Abaya at Absinth; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Wiseguys at Suburbia; Sandra Viray, Jacqui Magno & Romy Posadas at Wasabi

[illegible] Sunday

Sunday Jazz Brunch at Paseo Uno Coffee Shop; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; DJ Cocoy Puyat at Bed; Manila, My Manila Photo Exhibit at Greenbelt 3 Lobby

[illegible] Monday

Soul Seduction with Victoria at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; 604 Band at Suburbia; Akasha at Freedom Bar

[illegible] Tuesday

Acoustic Night with Ethan at Temple; Willy Wanka's Music Factory with Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Velvet with DJ Kimosave at Absinth; Guarana at Cafe Havana Greenbelt; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Wiseguys at Tavern on the Square; Acoustic Jive at Merk's; Soulful House with Cocoy Puyat & Travis Monsod at Bed

[illegible] Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; Vixen Wednesdays with Cao Ocampo and Superfly's Karl Ty at Embassy Cuisine; Superklasse with Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; Flirt with DJ James McCranie at Absinth; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Alabang Town Center; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Wency Cornejo at Tavern on the Square; Jazz Festival at Merk's; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Candles at Phi Bar; Mash-up Wednesday at Bed

[illegible] Thursday

Mishka Adams at Wasabi; Wunjo at '70s Bistro; Maegan Aguilar at Phi Bar; Flux Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; RIDDM with DJ Patch at Absinth; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze with Cocoy Puyat at Bed; Retro Night at Dish; Ladies Night with DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; 8 Track at Tavern on the Square; Acoustic Jive & May Bayot at Merk's; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

[illegible] Friday

NBK's HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills at Wasabi; The Nuvo Lounge with Superfly DJs at Nuvo; Denon DJ House Nite with Mark de Leon at Mati; MyHOUSE with Elian Habayeb at M Café; La Baila with Calypso DJs at Maestro; Musik at Embassy Club; CouchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Fever Fridays with DJ Patch at Absinth; Friday Night Flava at Dish; Jive Fridays with DJ Darrel D & MC Dash at Temple; The Jerks at '70s Bistro; Fat Session at Tavern on the Square; DJ Scratchmark & Kimosave at Prince of Jaipur; Route 70 at Merk's; Urbanation at Phi Bar; DJs Travis Monsod and Toy Armada at Bed

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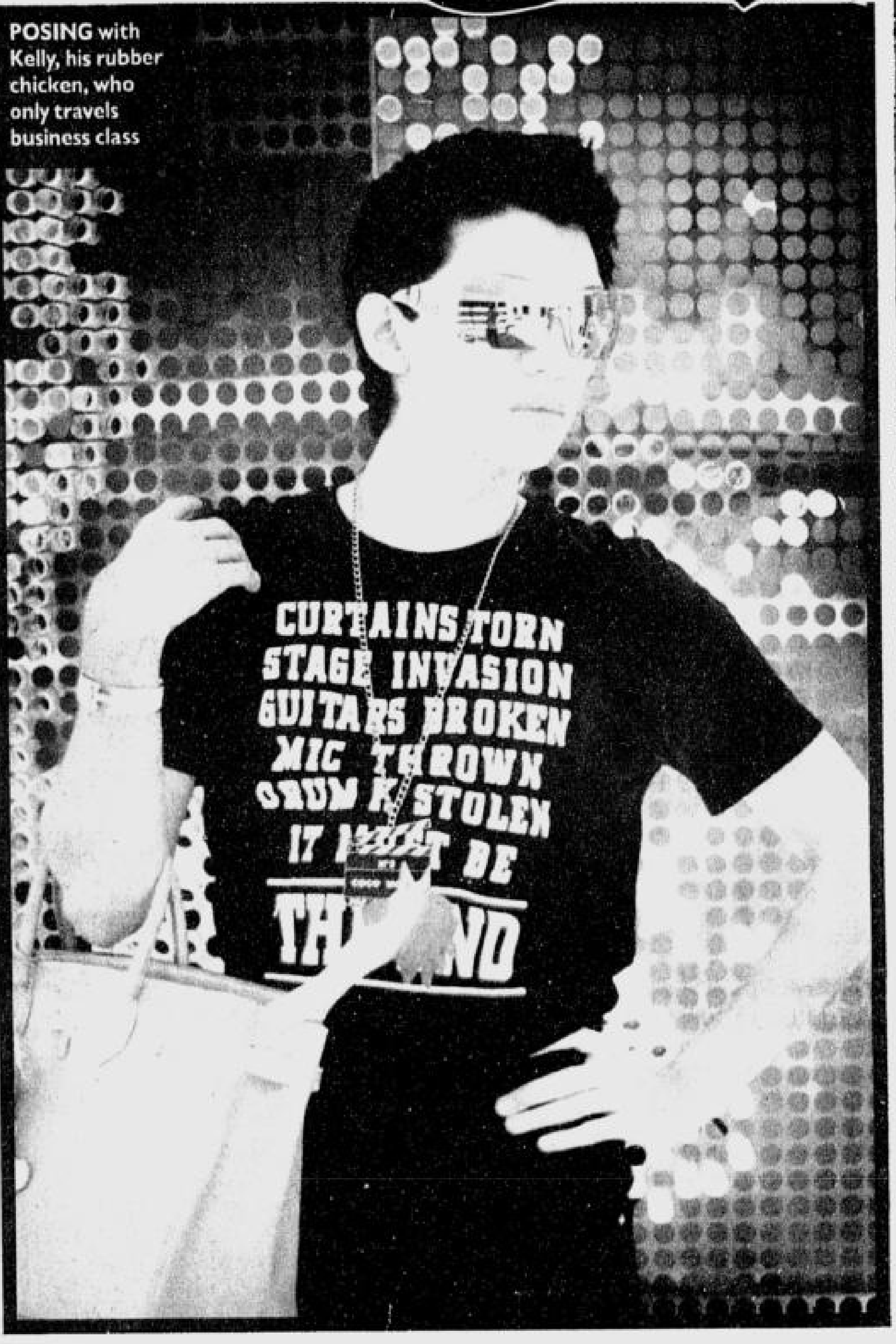
DON'T TOUCH MY BIRKIN. Bryanboy gets limo serviced upon arrival at the airport.

IN BETWEEN BREAKS. Hail to le Superstar Fabuleux!

Living It Large

Questions and answers by Bryanboy.com
Photos by Steve Tirona



POSING with Kelly, his rubber chicken, who only travels business class

BRYAN, BRYAN, BRYAN, WHAT do you think is the main purpose of your existence?

Ooo! I know the answer to this one because I had a deep sense of realization a few months back. At first I thought, heck, I was born to make people feel bad about themselves. I was born to make people feel envious. I was born so that people would want to sell their souls to the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation in exchange of a slice from their billion-dollar pie.

I was wrong.

It was only recently that I found out that the reason why I came out of my mom's orifice is to make everyone try the fabulous green apple tart with foie gras at M Café. Failing that, I was born to save the whales, the dolphins and of course, the Philippine Tarsier.

Foie Gras. Sounds expensive. Where can one get funds to pay for such pleasure? Where do YOU get funds to pay for YOUR pleasures?

A gold-digger-in-training will never reveal her sources unless someone had slapped a Graff engagement ring on her finger.

Oh I don't know. You're asking the wrong person darling. I barely have a single cent under my name let alone get funds to pay for such a ludicrous word that should only belong to the nearest perfume counter!

I suppose I do have limited funds. The only form of sustenance that I have comes from the Third World Bangko Sentral of Mommy and Daddy!

I'm kidding.

Nah, I'm an independent young man. I'm a funeral director by day and certified "fluffer" by night. Come sing with me my dear readers—all the women who are independent, throw your hands up at me! All the honeys who makin' money, throw your hands up at me!

Rumor has it that you're a "high-class" escort. Is this true?

Contrary to what people think, no, I have not worked for the infamous yet fabulous (you should've seen the half-page ad they have at the Hong Kong yellow pages) Connie and Imelda sisters.

I'm brown, I have a flat nose, I'm short, I'm permanently bloated, I'm fat and I'm bloody proud of it. How can I be an escort when I've got a face only a mother can love?

Why are you so obsessed about your weight?

I want to be skinny. I don't want to be thin. I don't want to be slim. I want to be skinny. It's as simple as that.

I developed an eating disorder not too long ago: I eat far too much. It's all gone downhill from that point. I definitely miss those bygone days when my waist line is pretty much the same number as my age.

The only thing that stops me from eating these days is the ridiculous amount of pictures of supermodel Daria Werbowy plastered on my fridge.

Instead of shoving food down my throat whenever I feel a pang of hunger, I always ask myself the $64-million dollar question: "Do you want to have her arms?" Trust me, it works wonders!

How old are you by the way? Some sources say you're 16 while others say, you're *gasp*, 25?

Don't you have any manners? Never ask anyone about their age. Age is only a number. In my case, I'm too young to give birth, too old to become a supermodel. In other words, I'm 18.

18? You've got to be kidding me.

That's 18. Plus 5. Don't tell anyone or else I'll throw a creampie to your face.

That explains it.

Explains what?

That certain *je ne sais quoi*…

What je ne say what now? Talk to me in Filiflippin Pesos or La Tourista Dollars babe because my knowledge of the Euro is limited.

You seem to be well-traveled. Where is your dream destination?

I'm not well-traveled. How can I be well-traveled when every damn destination I want to go requires me having a visa? A visa here, a visa there, a visa everywhere—it's so petty! Heck, you even need a friggin' visa to go to the North Pole! I mean, who would want to be a benefits scrounger where the domestics (household pets, that is) can't even survive? Do I look like an illegal immigrant? Do I look like as if I'm going to be a drain to a foreign government's resources? No thanks sweetheart, there's no way I'm fondling a sex-starved pensioner or smuggle myself in cheap nylon suitcases one body part at a time, just to get foreign welfare checks.

My dream destination has got to be either the North Pole or the South Pole. I want to go where any form of humanity and civilization is at bare minimum.

Before going to bed each night, I always picture myself waving a little Filipino flag over there, along with a large sheet of paper that says "Bryanboy loves you all" while wearing some of my fabulous garments made out of dead animals—Greenpeace and PETA can lick my stilettos, thank you very much.

What's your favorite place in the world?

Airports. I LOVE airports, it doesn't matter where it is as long as it's got one of those moving walkway things.

I like to think of airports just like fashion week—everyone is in a rush, everyone is in a hurry.

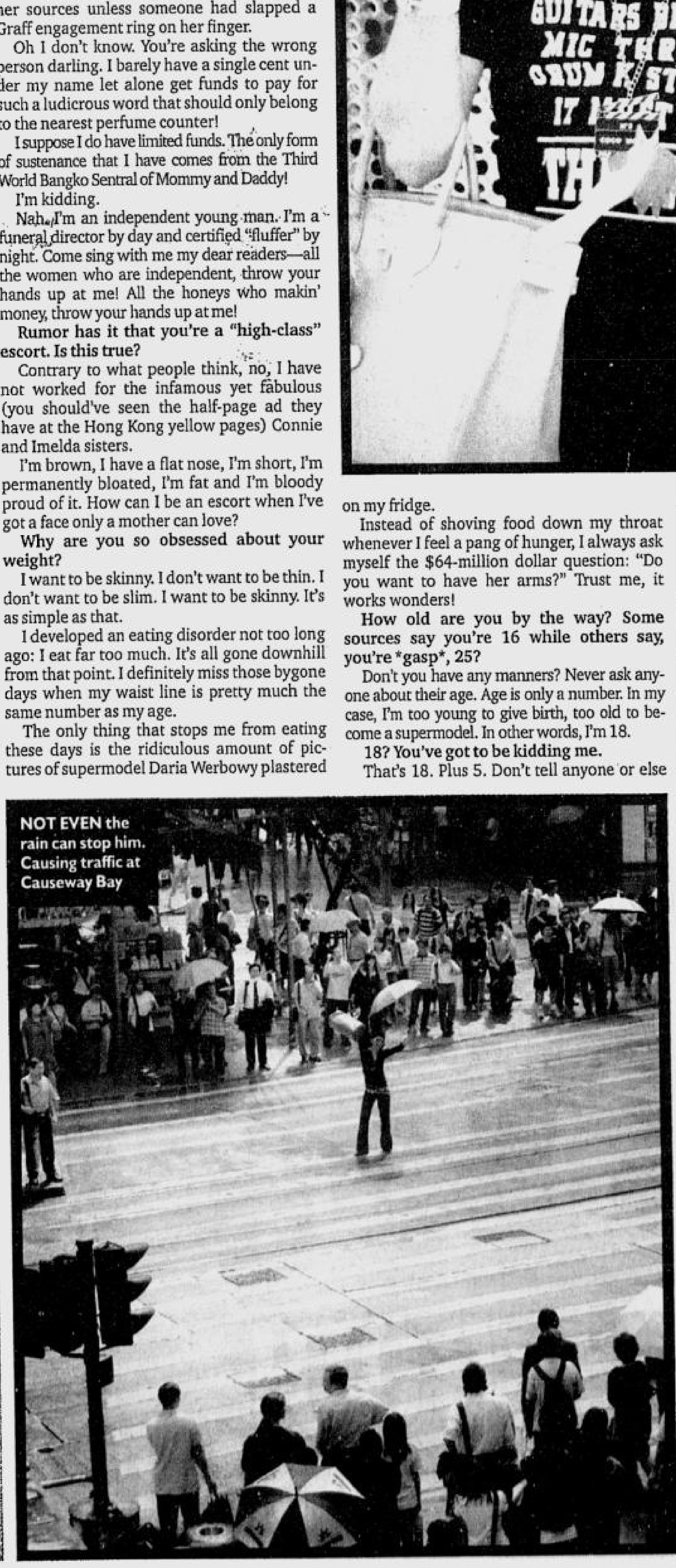
And there you are, the model, the star of the show, power-sashaying over 100 miles per hour on the moving walkway thing like there's no such thing as tomorrow—big massive fur jackets, oversized dark sunglasses, tight butt hugging pants, huge logo-a-gogo weekend bag while playing dirty house tracks on your iPod.

Tramping around the airport flirting with people you'll never see again in your life is fun!

Do you judge people by their shoes?

Nope, I don't.

Although I do judge people by how fat their wallets are, what booze they drink, what illegal substances they take (you gotta love those drug addicts—they're quite a character!), who their



NOT EVEN the rain can stop him. Causing traffic at Causeway Bay

CHILLAXING at the Philippe Starck designed Jia Hotel in HK

Competition is pretty stiff in cyberspace, especially when you have millions of users chronicling their lives, real or imagined, in their personal blogs. That's why we're tipping our fedoras to the country's original blogstar, who carved his way to the limelight by exposing his over-the-top, extravagant lifestyle. In this exclusive, self-asked, self-answered Q&A series for Super!, Bryanboy offers a tongue-in-cheek sneak peek at his hideously hedonistic life as we followed him around the shopping mecca of Hong Kong

FREE BRYANBOY! While raiding the Valentino shop

plastic surgeon is, their favorite airport, the restaurants they go to, how gifted they are in the family jewels department and of course, whether their personal assistant has a personal assistant.

Ultimate Pet Peeve?

I hate those men in business suits acting all snobby and pompous when the only thing that feeds them is a bloody company expense account.

Your Ultimate Fantasy?

I've always wanted to have my own set of enormous billboards along the freeway (or Edsa) with my face on it.

Failing that, my face and my screechy voice plastered on everyone's cell phone, computer, television will suffice.

What are your views toward spending?

I like to think of spending as a little "help" to the economy. I'm an advocate for consumer spending. Spend spend spend! Live it up! Why buy a cheap suitcase when you can spend $50,000 on a couple of cool Bottega Veneta crocodile ones?

Spending is OK as long as you spend within your means... or spend what you can afford... and by afford means paying your credit cards in full each month.

Spending is just like drug abuse. There really is no way to stop while the adrenaline is still there. The only way you'll stop is either when you feel the long-term effects, in this case, get drowned in debt.

Do you think you'll find true love in spite of being too flamboyant?

I don't think I'm flamboyant. Am I? I despise that F-word. Flamboyant.

Of course I'll find true love. Is there such a thing as "faux love"? I don't think so.

In fact, I've found love far too many times in the past—there's my love for all things Fendi, all things Chanel, all things Hermes, all things Christian Dior and of course, my undying love for everything and anything that has a label on it.

At the moment however, true love comes in the form of a Fendi sable coat or vintage Goyard trunk filled with cold hard cash. I need THAT sort of lovin' lovin' for my upcoming winter vacation.

How do you describe yourself if you're not flamboyant?

I have three words—humility, modesty and purity.

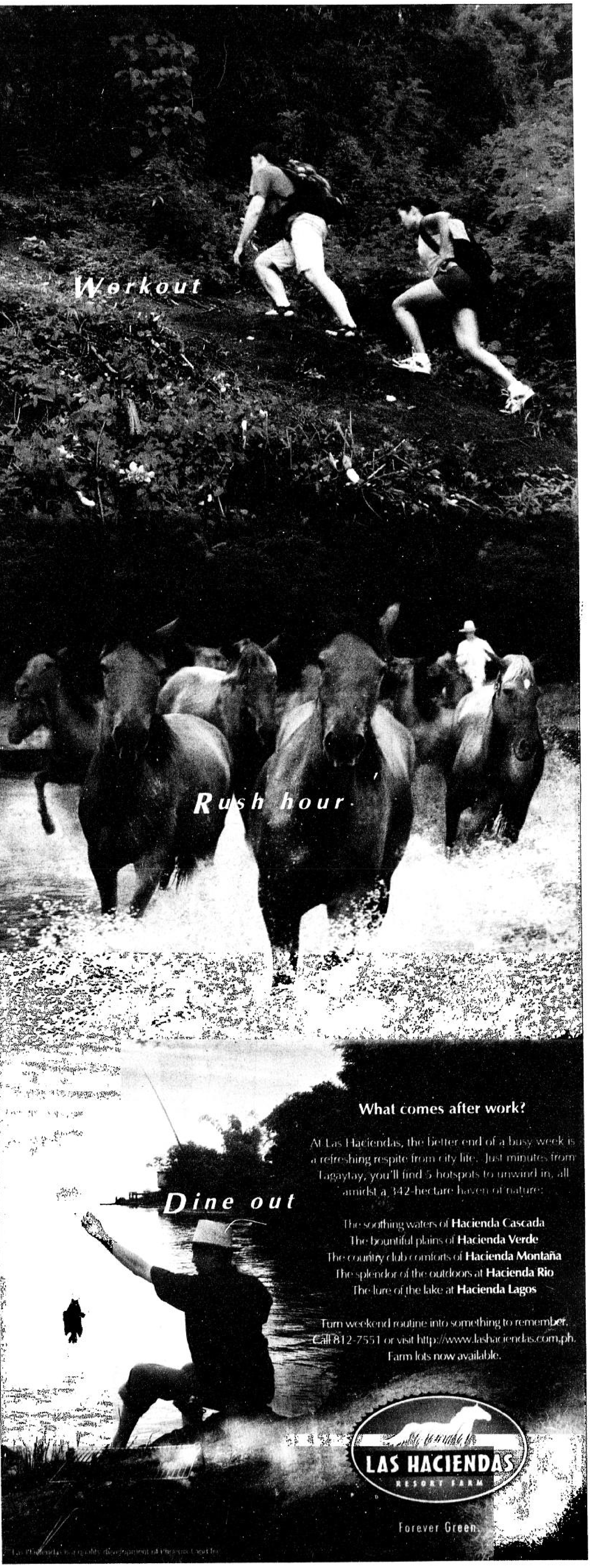
What do you want engraved on your tombstone?

"Dead or alive, we're going shopping!"

Famous last word?

Baboosh!

"I'M JUST GETTING STARTED." Bryanboy at the IFC Mall



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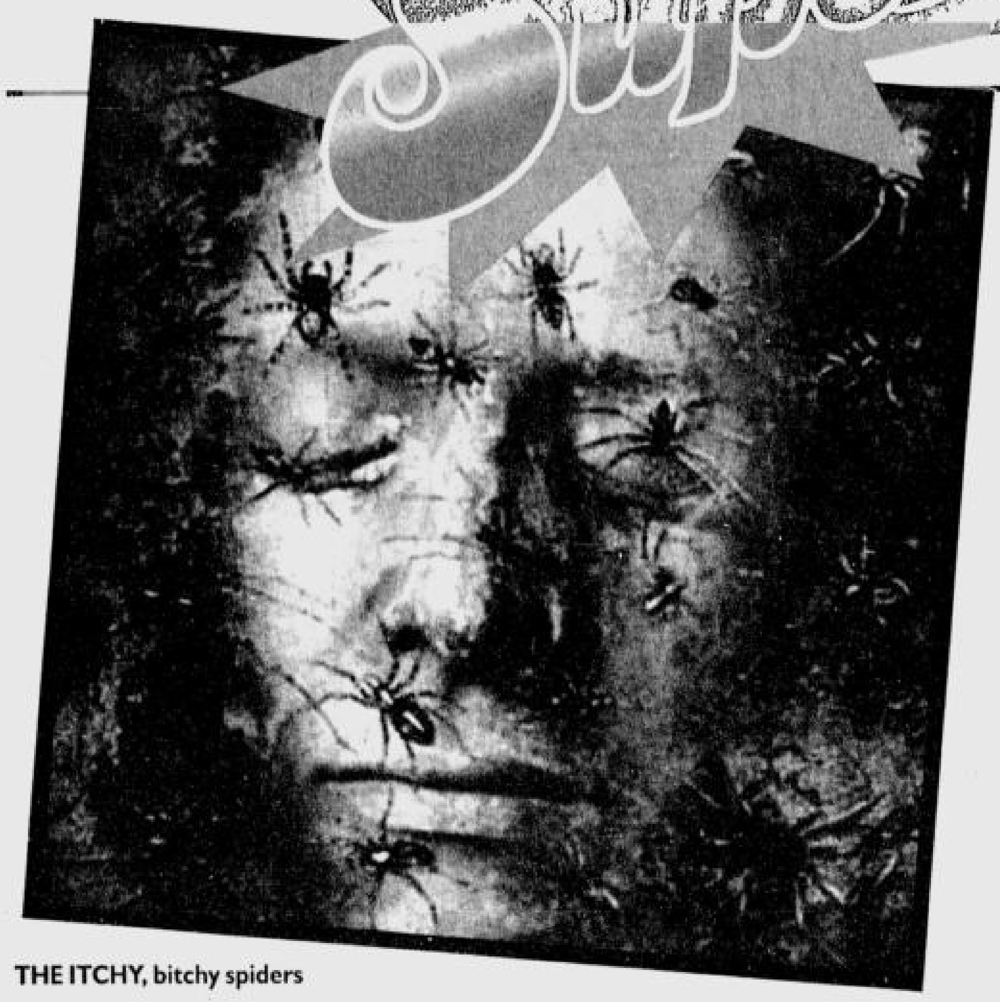

THE ITCHY, bitchy spiders

Conversations between Spiders

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

BLACK COFFEE, WHITE SUGar. At least there are *some* things in this world that are still black and white. Not quite like the gray matters at hand that spurred the sudden caffeine conference—for as we know these days, any pressing topic that requires endless nitpicking and overanalysis must always be soused with a bittersweet bean brew. I guess to lend it that dramatic Beatnik effect.

Pass that dark elixir for walking wounded number one: a thirtysomething male TV producer, left miserable and confused over a budding relationship that somehow left-turned into a mere relation between buddies. So much for wining and dining and not to mention kerplunking a hideous amount on cell phone calls, only to be relegated by his object of affection to the "good friend" department, thus being filed under the same category as the girl's other "good friends" who shop at Zara and watch "Desperate Housewives" religiously. Just for this, I'll name him "Buddy."

Sipping her cappuccino quietly while listening to his diatribes was walking wounded number two: a nineteen-year-old professional model, also royally messed over the fact that an unlabeled, five-month long affair was fated to remain stuck in such ambiguity. Let's call her Smitten Miss Kitten. She had initially resisted any romantic entanglement, until she finally opened up, got swept off her feet… and somehow found herself stuck in a "weird" place where she's emotionally attached but not exactly connected. Well, they don't call it "falling" in love for nothing—you really do lose some sense of balance and get bruised up in the process!

Then there was me, playing eye tennis between these

CONVERSATIONS/ D3

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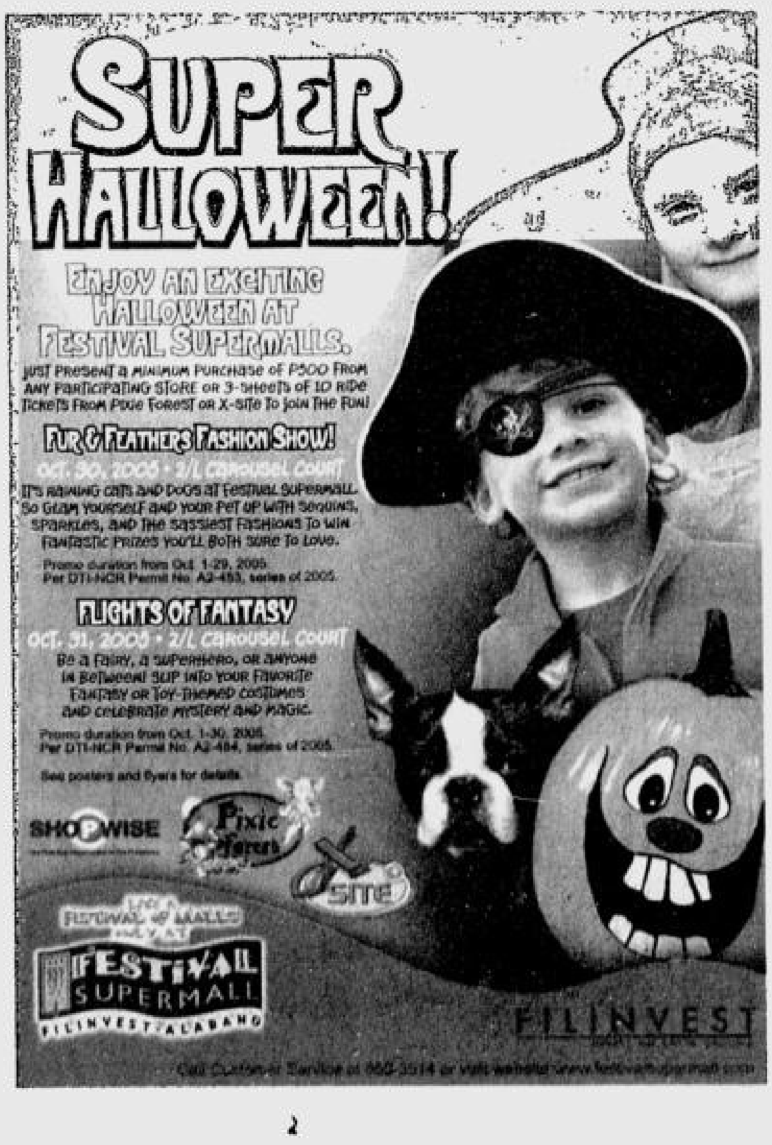

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Oct. 30, 2005 • 2/L Carousel Court
It's raining cats and dogs at Festival Supermall. So glam yourself and your pet up with sequins, sparkles, and the sassiest fashions to win fantastic prizes you'll both sure to love.
Promo duration from Oct. 1-29, 2005.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-483, series of 2005.
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Oct. 31, 2005 • 2/L Carousel Court
Be a fairy, a superhero, or anyone in between! Slip into your favorite fantasy or toy-themed costumes and celebrate mystery and magic.
Promo duration from Oct. 1-30, 2005.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-484, series of 2005.
See posters and flyers for details.
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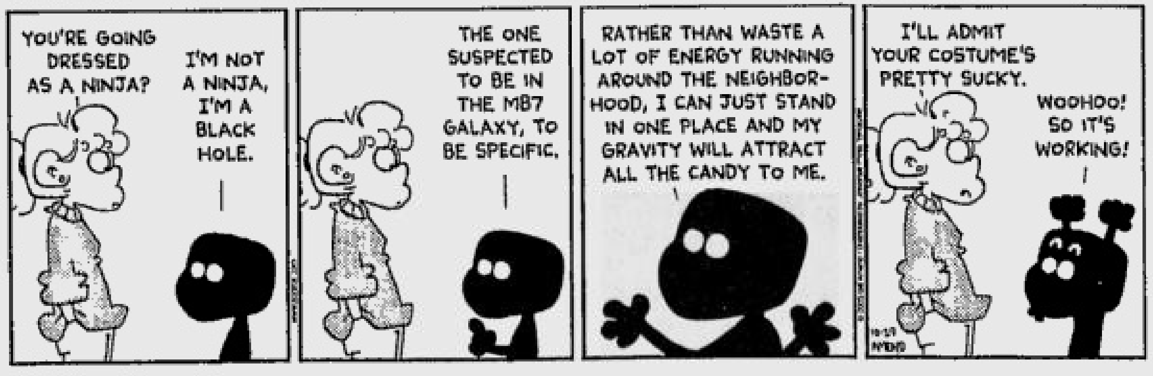
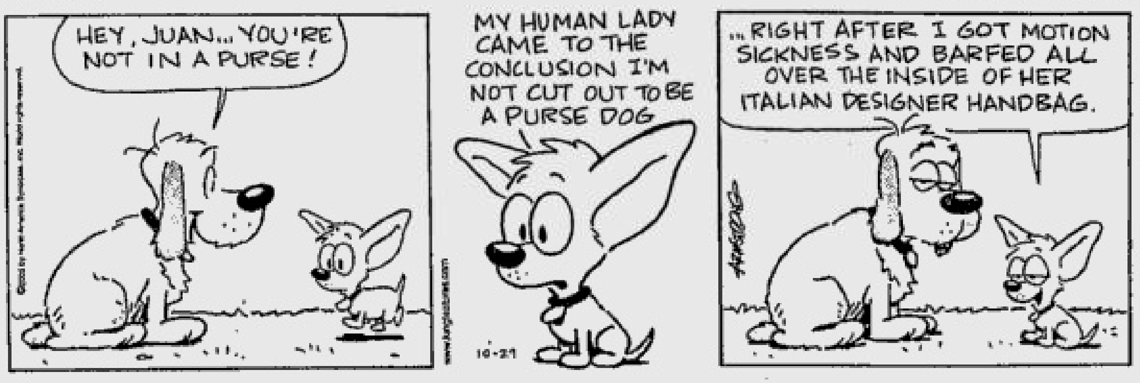
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU'RE GOING DRESSED AS A NINJA?
I'M NOT A NINJA, I'M A BLACK HOLE.
THE ONE SUSPECTED TO BE IN THE M87 GALAXY, TO BE SPECIFIC.
RATHER THAN WASTE A LOT OF ENERGY RUNNING AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD, I CAN JUST STAND IN ONE PLACE AND MY GRAVITY WILL ATTRACT ALL THE CANDY TO ME.
I'LL ADMIT YOUR COSTUME'S PRETTY SUCKY.
WOOHOO! SO IT'S WORKING!

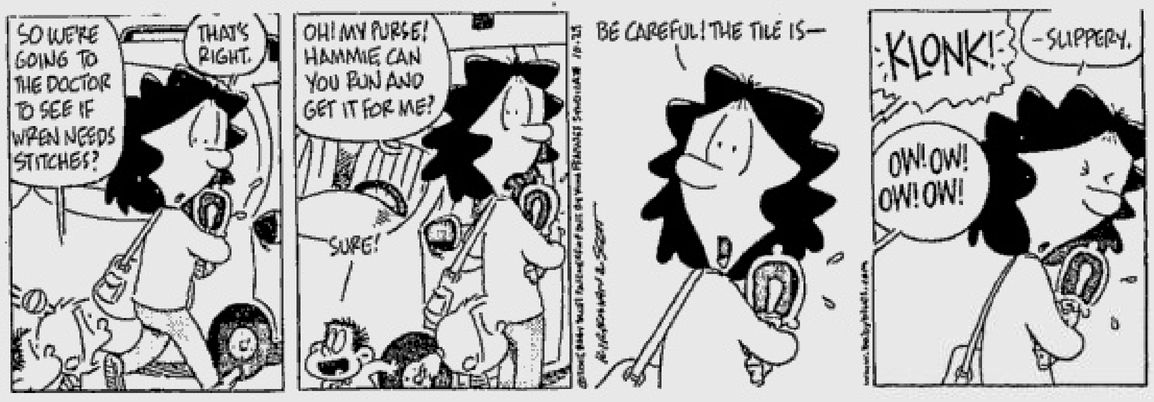
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HEY, JUAN... YOU'RE NOT IN A PURSE!
MY HUMAN LADY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE A PURSE DOG
...RIGHT AFTER I GOT MOTION SICKNESS AND BARFED ALL OVER THE INSIDE OF HER ITALIAN DESIGNER HANDBAG.
10-29

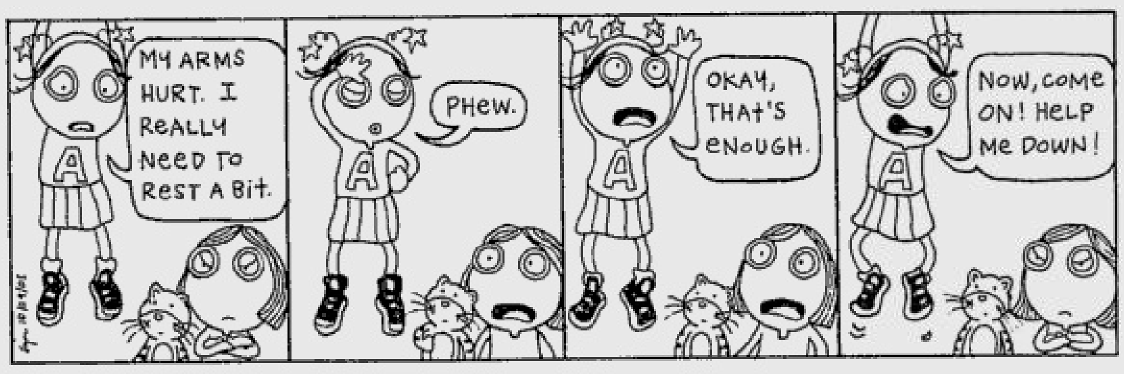
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO WE'RE GOING TO THE DOCTOR TO SEE IF WREN NEEDS STITCHES?
THAT'S RIGHT.
OH! MY PURSE! HAMMIE CAN YOU RUN AND GET IT FOR ME?
SURE!
BE CAREFUL! THE TILE IS—
KLONK!
—SLIPPERY.
OW! OW! OW! OW!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


MY ARMS HURT. I REALLY NEED TO REST A BIT.
PHEW.
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.
NOW, COME ON! HELP ME DOWN!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your communication skills are tops! You can write, teach, market, sell or act. (People believe you.) In addition to your smooth talk, you have a fine, analytical mind. You're very good at dealing with others. This is an exciting time because you're entering an entirely new cycle in your life.
Birthdate of: Kate Jackson, actress; Richard Dreyfuss, actor; Winona Ryder, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You'll need more patience than usual dealing with co-workers today. The smiling faces of yesterday have turned to demanding frowns today! Nevertheless, it's small potatoes.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Children and romantic liaisons might test your patience today. Don't get your belly in a rash. Don't get in a quarrel about shared possessions or who is responsible for what. Chill out.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Yesterday, things were joyful; today, family members are cranky. You might be cranky too. What gives? Just demonstrate grace under pressure. You love to multitask, so go do something else.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): If you feel worried about something today, give it little thought. It will pass very soon. Conversations with siblings and relatives are cramped or stilted. Do your homework before you make suggestions.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Conversations with romantic partners are strained today. This same influence exists between parents and children. It's a passing thing. Be gentle with young people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Moon is still in your sign today; however, today it is challenged. Therefore, even though you have an advantage over others, do not press it. Be reasonable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't listen to feelings of self-doubt that might plague you today. We all get these feelings from time to time, and they're completely anti-productive. Shrug them off. Be gone!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Disagreements with a friend about money or possessions are likely today. Try not to make a big thing about it. Avoid this issue if you can. Either way, don't make a big deal about it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Relations with authority figures are a bit tense today. This is not the day to make your pitch for whatever you want. Wait until tomorrow or next week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Delays to travel plans and matters connected with publishing and the media are likely. Setbacks related to higher education are also likely. Continue to work at what you can do.

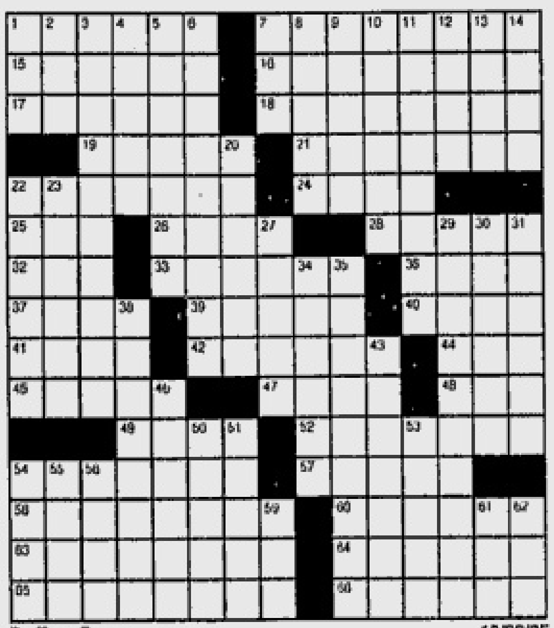
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Disagreements with friends and groups about shared possessions are likely today. Try to remain flexible and objective. After all, Aquarians are born 50 years ahead of their time. You set the example for us all!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might be disappointed in someone today. You expected different behavior. Remember: Unexpressed expectations generally lead to disillusionment.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Hun leader
7 Like dragsters
15 Practices recycling
16 Soak in wine
17 Automobile yard
18 F/X specialists
19 Alternatives to CDs
21 Nervous to the max
22 Sandler movie, "Happy __"
24 Mystic
25 Fruit beverage
26 Lomond or Leven
28 Kind of perception
32 Chest bone
33 Most ominous
36 Smallish card
37 Surface layer
39 The Grim Reaper
40 Days long past
41 Restless yearning
42 Perry's Della
44 Decimal base
45 Popped the question
47 Island tuber
48 ISS partner
49 __ off (keep at bay)
52 Flamenco go-with
54 Idle chatter
57 Teapot part
58 Sacred story set to music
60 All things considered
63 Strategic action
64 Packed away
65 Coats walls
66 Hurled

DOWN
1 Croissant shape
2 Darjeeling, e.g.
3 Hump on a ship
4 Shiite's belief
5 Conductor Stokowski
6 Celestial planetesimals
7 "__ Pinafore"
8 "Them" author
9 Bluenose
10 Tracked with sonar
11 Wholeness
12 Christie's title
13 University of Utah team
14 Closely confined
20 Clandestine
22 Golfer Sergio
23 Imbeciles
27 Central part
29 Guardians
30 Mother __ of Calcutta
31 Serengeti carnivores
34 Does a slow burn
35 Mental health professional
38 Atropos, Clotho and Lachesis
43 City on Lake Ontario
46 Pious
50 Boldness
51 Less humid
53 Highway vehicles
54 Brilliant display
55 Shrinking Inland Asian Sea
56 Turner of "Imitation of Life"
59 Hospital surgery rms.
61 Peg on a golf course
62 Like Neil Simon's couple



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

10/29/05

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	B	U	M	■	O	B	E	Y	S	■	V	A	C
L	O	R	R	E	■	L	E	A	V	E	■	A	L	L
V	A	U	L	T	F	I	N	D	E	R	■	S	L	A
A	F	T	■	E	R	N	E	S	T	■	G	T	O	S
■	■	■	H	O	I	S	T	■	T	H	E	F	T	S
S	A	V	O	R	S	■	N	E	A	T	O	■	■	■
A	V	I	S	■	E	A	S	E	■	G	R	O	S	S
C	O	N	T	I	■	I	T	S	■	S	E	T	A	L
S	W	E	E	P	■	L	E	T	S	■	A	E	R	O
■	■	F	L	O	S	S	■	■	L	A	D	D	I	E
E	V	E	R	S	O	■	A	R	A	B	Y	■	■	■
W	I	L	Y	■	M	O	R	E	N	O	■	H	U	M
E	S	L	■	V	A	N	M	A	G	A	Z	I	N	E
R	E	O	■	E	L	M	E	R	■	R	E	L	I	T
S	S	W	■	T	I	E	R	S	■	D	E	L	T	A

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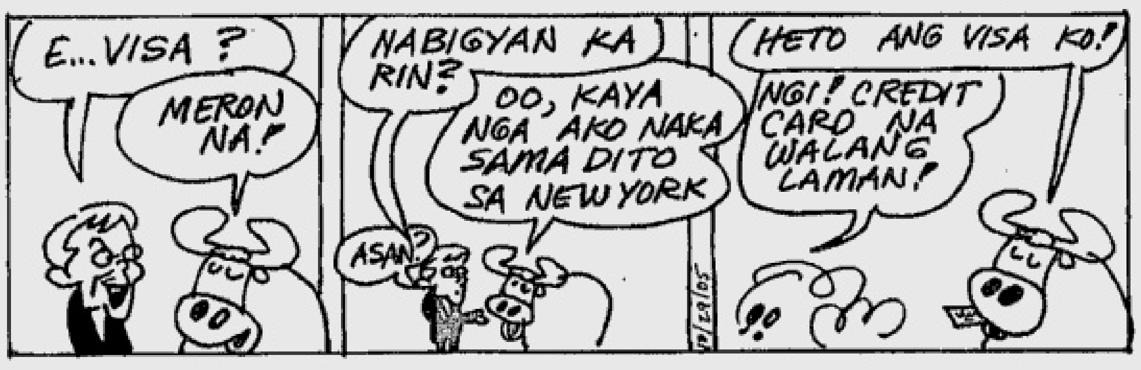
10/28/05

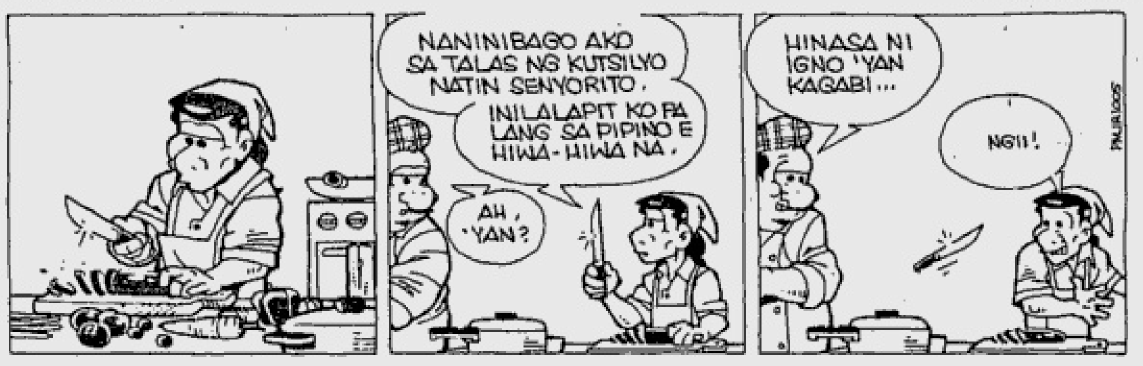
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


E... VISA?
MERON NA!
NABIGYAN KA RIN?
OO, KAYA NGA AKO NAKA SAMA DITO SA NEW YORK
ASAN?
HETO ANG VISA KO!
NGI! CREDIT CARD NA WALANG LAMAN!
10/29/05

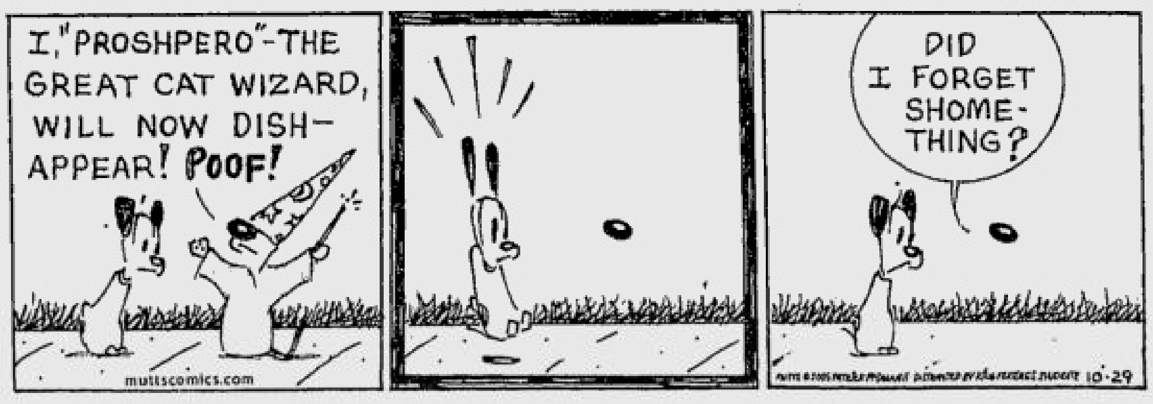
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NANINIBAGO AKO SA TALAS NG KUTSILYO NATIN SENYORITO.
INILALAPIT KO PA LANG SA PIPINO E HIWA-HIWA NA.
AH, 'YAN?
HINASA NI IGNO 'YAN KAGABI...
NGII!

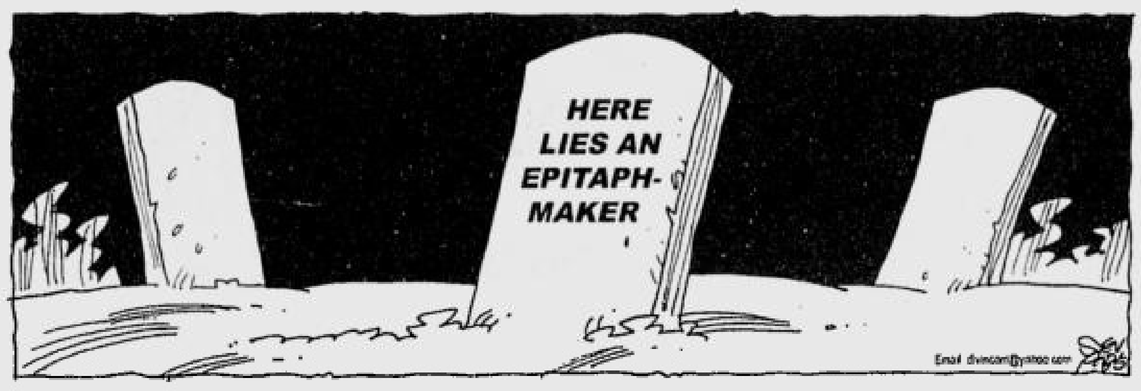
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I, "PROSHPERO"-THE GREAT CAT WIZARD, WILL NOW DISH-APPEAR! POOF!
DID I FORGET SHOMETHING?
muttscomics.com
10-29

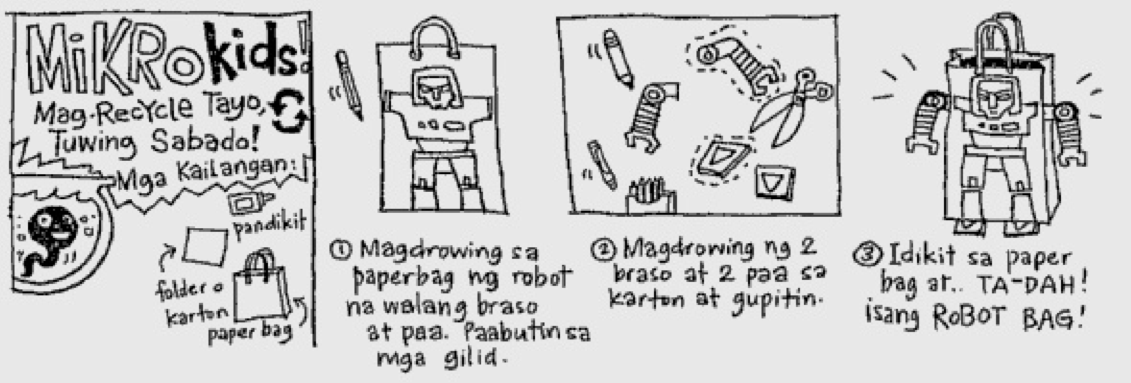
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HERE LIES AN EPITAPH-MAKER

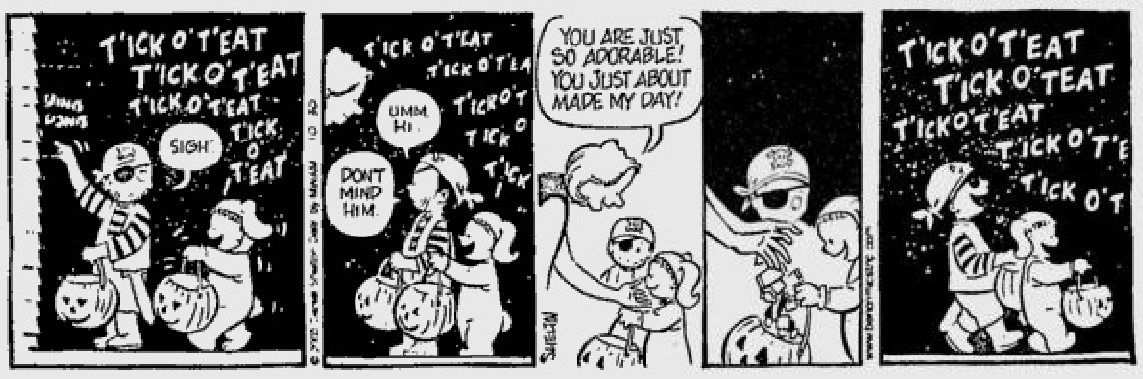
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
pandikit
folder o karton
paper bag
① Magdrowing sa paperbag ng robot na walang braso at paa. Paabutin sa mga gilid.
② Magdrowing ng 2 braso at 2 paa sa karton at gupitin.
③ Idikit sa paper bag at.. TA-DAH! isang RoBOT BAG!

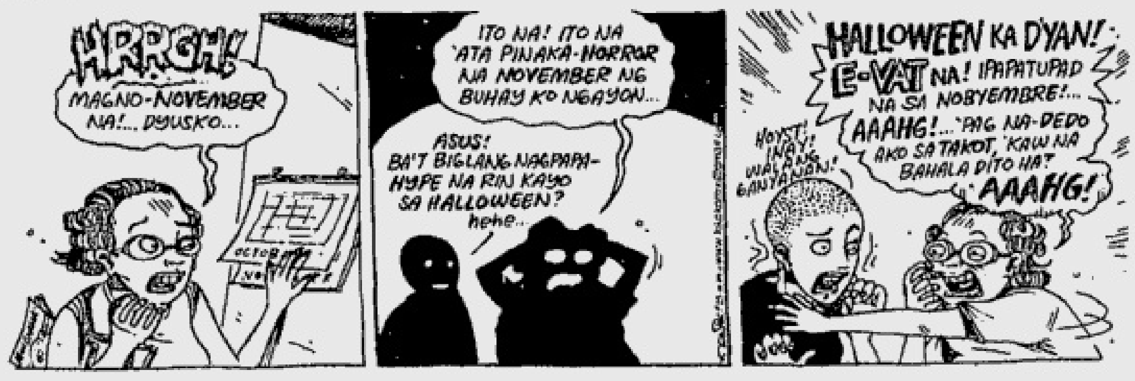
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


T'ICK O'T'EAT T'ICK O'T'EAT T'ICK O'T'EAT T'ICK O T'EAT
SIGH
UMM. HI.
DON'T MIND HIM.
YOU ARE JUST SO ADORABLE! YOU JUST ABOUT MADE MY DAY!
T'ICK O'T'EAT T'ICK O'TEAT T'ICK O'T'EAT T'ICK O'T'E T'ICK O'T

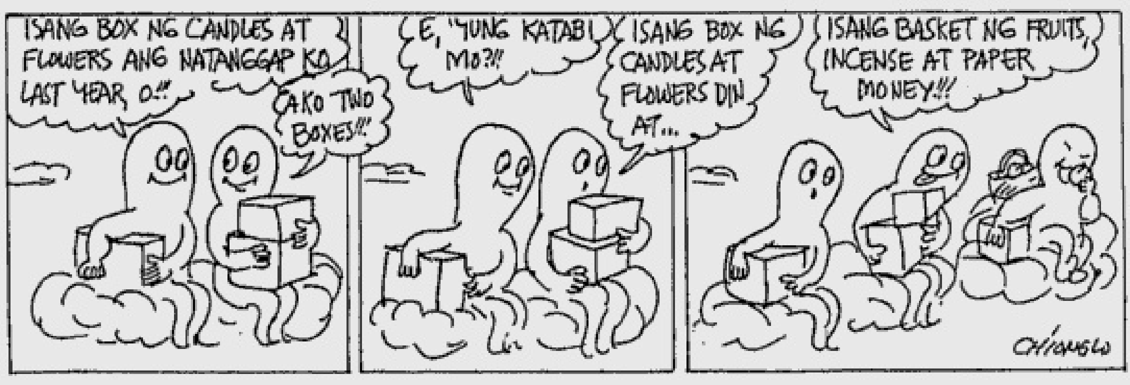
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRRGH!
MAGNO-NOVEMBER NA!... DYUSKO...
ITO NA! ITO NA 'ATA PINAKA-HORROR NA NOVEMBER NG BUHAY KO NGAYON...
ASUS! BA'T BIGLANG NAGPAPA-HYPE NA RIN KAYO SA HALLOWEEN? hehe..
HALLOWEEN KA D'YAN!
E-VAT NA! IPAPATUPAD NA SA NOBYEMBRE!...
AAAHG!... 'PAG NA-DEDO AKO SA TAKOT, 'KAW NA BAHALA DITO HA?
AAAHG!
HOYST! INAY! WALANG GANYANAN!

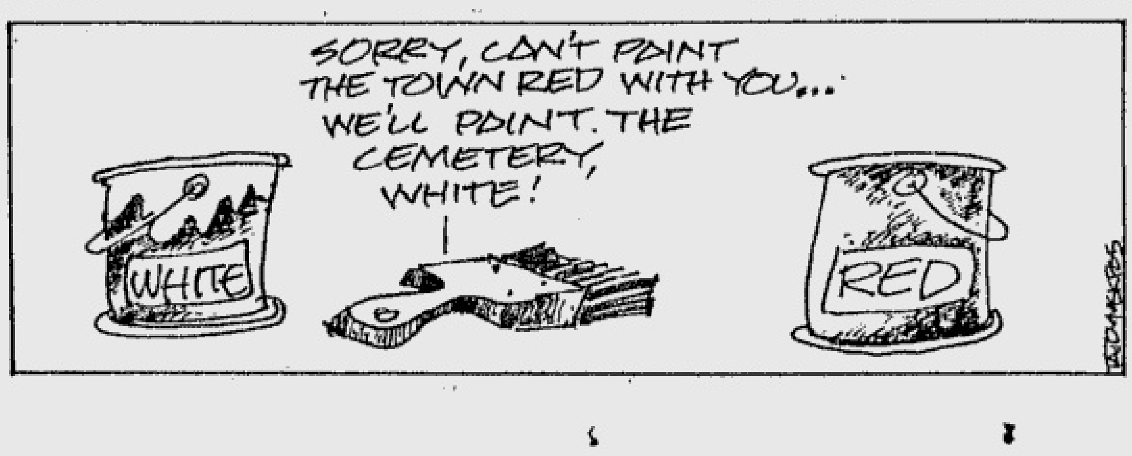
LOVEKNOTS

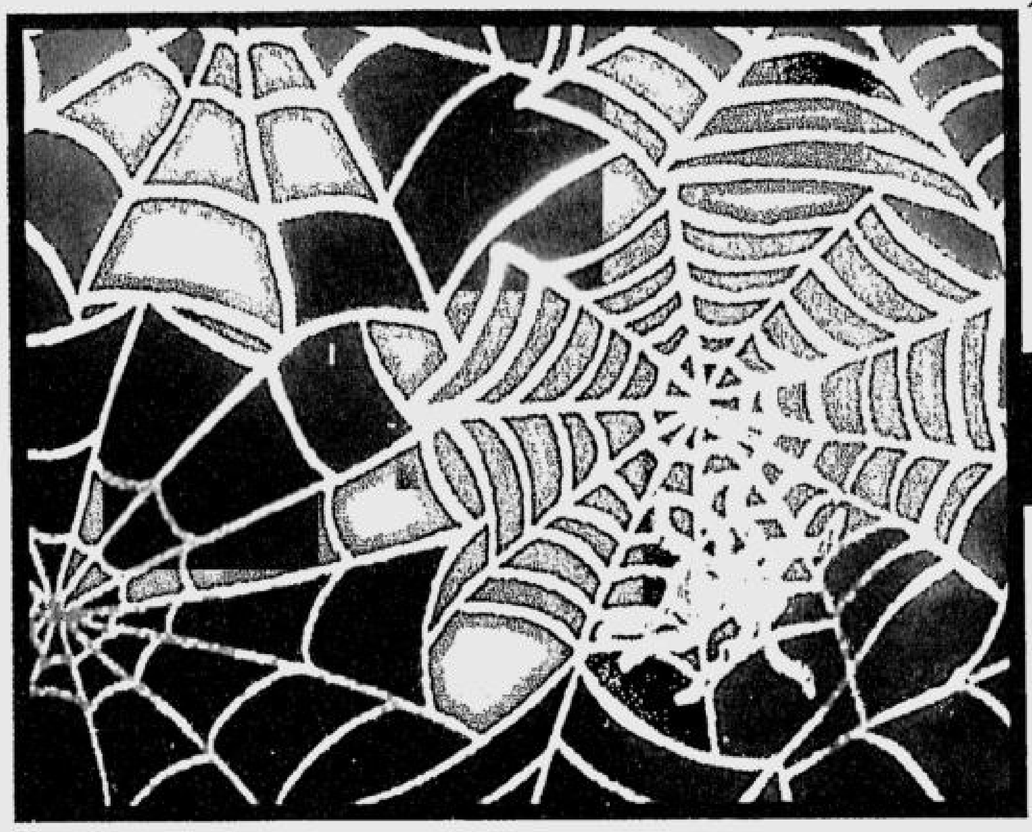
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ISANG BOX NG CANDLES AT FLOWERS ANG NATANGGAP KO LAST YEAR, O!!
AKO TWO BOXES!!
E, 'YUNG KATABI MO?!!
ISANG BOX NG CANDLES AT FLOWERS DIN AT...
ISANG BASKET NG FRUITS, INCENSE AT PAPER MONEY!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SORRY, CAN'T PAINT THE TOWN RED WITH YOU... WE'LL PAINT THE CEMETERY, WHITE!
WHITE
RED



Conversations between spiders

When gray is the new pink, or the curious circumstances of two people who just don't know what's between them

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From page D1

two characters of Gen X and Why. I watched the cream in my third cup of coffee shape itself into a spiny-legged spider, consequently leading me to think about the spiders spinning in Neil Gaiman's world these days, and how it somehow connects to all this. (Patience, grasshopper, I'll soon reveal why.)

Welcome to The Gray After, or the twilight zone of dating in the 00s.

Flings and things

It could be anywhere from a fling, a weird strain of best friendship, a mutual admiration, an open, non-exclusive dating arrangement or an unlabeled affair. My favorite ambiguous moniker yet would have to be "a thing," such that curious people can actually go up to you and ask "hey, don't you guys have a thing?" and though what exactly that "thing" is remains a mystery, you nod and say yes, I guess we have a *thing*.

It's this state of ambiguity that leads to that all-too maddening game-playing, where your skills in mind reading, strategizing and trickstering are put to the test. Though virtue is prized in every relationship, there also exists this other dimension of mischief that is neither good nor evil. It's absolutely ironic, that even if we're sincere with our intentions, we still have to be just slightly deceitful in order to survive.

Case in point: Smitten Miss Kitten had advised Buddy to be more of a "*malandro*," which translates to a rogue who uses cunning and cleverness to turn any situation to his favor. A *malandro* would be an expert on how to use to his advantage the cell phone, a.k.a. that third party in between every relationship these days (giving the Holy Spirit a long-delayed retirement). A *malandro* would know better than to be too available or reachable at the early stages of the dating game. He'd know that not texting once in a while or not replying to a girl's messages unexpectedly would leave her confused, wondering and dammit, make her start growing such things called feelings. For much as girls like romance, we do love a good mystery, too.

Buddy then shot back at Smitten Miss Kitten by suggesting that in her case, the guy probably lost interest because the chase was over. Man, that bummed her out. He said that if she wanted to play the "*malandra*" herself, it probably would have helped if she mischievously, harmlessly flirted with other guys, or actually somehow dropped hints about other men to fan a little needed jealousy.

Spiders, webs and other icky stuff

So in effect, we're all like spiders, manifestations of Anansi, the spider trickster god in Gaiman's latest novel (*o-ha*, connection!). Wily, crafty sneaks who spin gossamer yarns in our games in order to get what we want. Of course, too much spinning can weave tangled webs of our own design. It reminds me of this girl who once pretended she was drunk at a beach party (even if she didn't like to drink) just so she could squeeze out some sympathy from the man she had "a thing" with. Worse than being a lousy drunk, she was a lousier actress, and she only turned him off for good.

Complicated? You bet! Love may be a many-splendored thing, but it's also a many-legged creature. Still, I can think of a few relationships that are uncomplicated. Like the symbiotic relationship of the common fungi and plants, for one, where the fungi live in plants' roots, and in return, help the plant absorb the good stuff from the soil. *Tout simplement!*

But we're not fungi, and more than that, we're certainly not common. If relationships were as effortless as coming up with an agreement ("I dig you, you dig me, so groovy baby let's live long and prosper!") then the whole concept of love and romance just loses its thrill. If you think about it, it's the complexities, the mysteries, the grays, pretty much those details that make you go batshit that keep us hanging in there, even if it be by a thread. And if we are looking for a way out of the twilight zone by having concrete titles and labels, it is but a natural attempt to understand the enigma better, just as we tend to affix labels on the things and people we understand the least.

In the meantime, for all the Smitten Miss Kittens and Buddies out there struggling in the gray zone, take some solace in knowing that it's the things that are truly of value in this world that are worth the struggle—be it love, strength of character, or life itself. If it were all that simple, it wouldn't even be worth nitpicking over three cups of coffee.

Tricky, tricky! E-mail the author at mezcaltals@gmail.com

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Plus - Daytime
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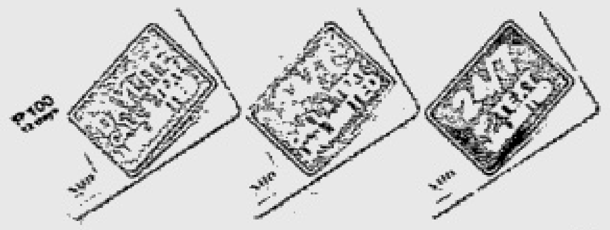

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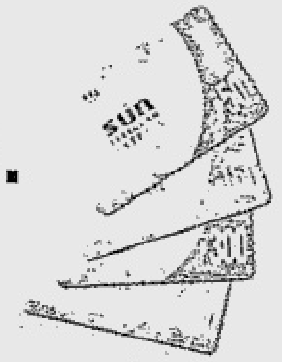

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Calls to other networks	7.50	7.50	6.50
Calls to landline	7.50	7.50	6.50
REGULAR TEXT RATES			
Text to same network	1.00	1.00	0.50
Text to other networks	1.00	1.00	1.00
INTERNATIONAL TEXT RATES	10.00	15.00	9.00

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MMS Local	3.00	5.00	2.00
MMS International	20.00	20.00	20.00
DOWNLOADING			
Ringtones	20.00	15.00	15.00
Wallpapers	20.00	15.00	15.00
Video Clips	25.00	20.00	20.00

*Based on i-Text rates

Choose Sun's Lowest Mobile IDD Rate. Choose 10¢ per minute.

Choose to bridge more people, choose Sun.

At 10¢/min, our IDD Top 10 rate brings more smiles for miles.

Permanent Rate Comparison

	Brand X	Brand Y	Sun Cellular
IDD	$0.40	$0.40	$0.10*

*Applies to the following most frequently-called destinations: U.S. (Mainland), China, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Guam and Macau.

For Reloading with More Free Texts and Longer Validity, Choose Sun.

Xpress load

Choose to stay connected always, choose Sun. With Sun Xpress Load, we're the only network that gives free texts every time you load and longer validity periods.

Get to reload for as low as ₱20!

Denominations	Free Text	Validity
₱20-29	2	2 days
₱30-49	4	3 days
₱50-74	8	7 days
₱75-99	12	10 days
₱100-124	16	15 days
₱125-149	20	20 days
₱150	25	30 days

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style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

SUPER! bumped into the Super friends at the Warner Brothers theme park in Gold Coast Australia. Happy Halloween!

THE K TEAM. The L'Oreal Kerastase Luxury team in Gold Coast, Australia

GoldiLuxe

With everything having the term 'luxe' attached to it, luxury is such an overused term. But what does it really take to embody luxury?

Tim Yap

FLYING TO THE GOLD COAST with a hundred hairdressers, one simply cannot have a bad hair day.

How can you, when everywhere you look is a salon owner with their names emblazoned on the shop marquee. Then again, if you actually do have a not-so-great-hair day, they are just there for you, at the drop of a hairpin.

When we landed on Brisbane airport, all road signs pointed towards the direction of Queensland—how very apt when you are traveling with the country's experts in wellness and beauty. I mean, they all know how to treat you like royalty.

This time around, it was their turn to be pampered, and educated for that matter, by the L'Oreal Kerastase team as part of their commitment to salons in achieving the path to luxury. Luxury is such an overused term these days, with everything having the term "luxe" attached to it. But what does it really take to embody luxury?

Patrick Canivet of L'Oreal Japan spoke about the intensive research that the beauty company puts its mind into, just to get it right. "Kerastase is all about education—it's our long term investment to ensure the future of beauty."

A certain mantra I heard that day stuck to my head. "Hair may help us to learn a great deal about ourselves.". Channeling my inner Gold Coast Zen Buddhist yogi, I realize that these living cells are actually extensions of yourself. That's why it is essential to take care of our uppermost glories the same way we pamper our heavenly bodies.

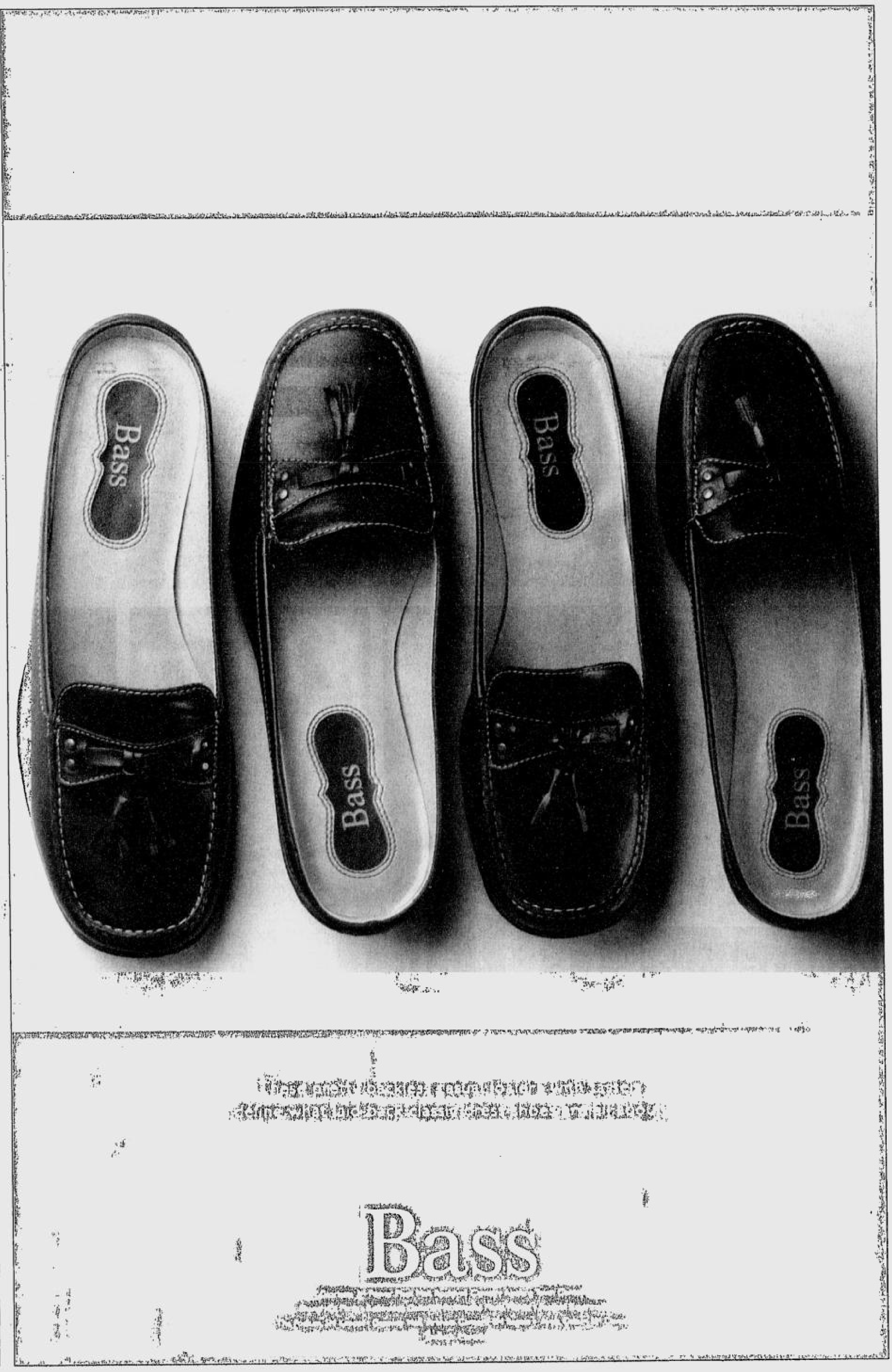
On that note, I must congratulate Henri

GOLDILUXE/E2

KOALA COSTUME PARADE. Patricia Poco, Tim Yap and Carlo Timoteo

SCOOBY-DOO
COASTER

SCOOBY-DOO, where are you? Maurice Arcache and Pepper Teehankee get ready for the Halloween hunt

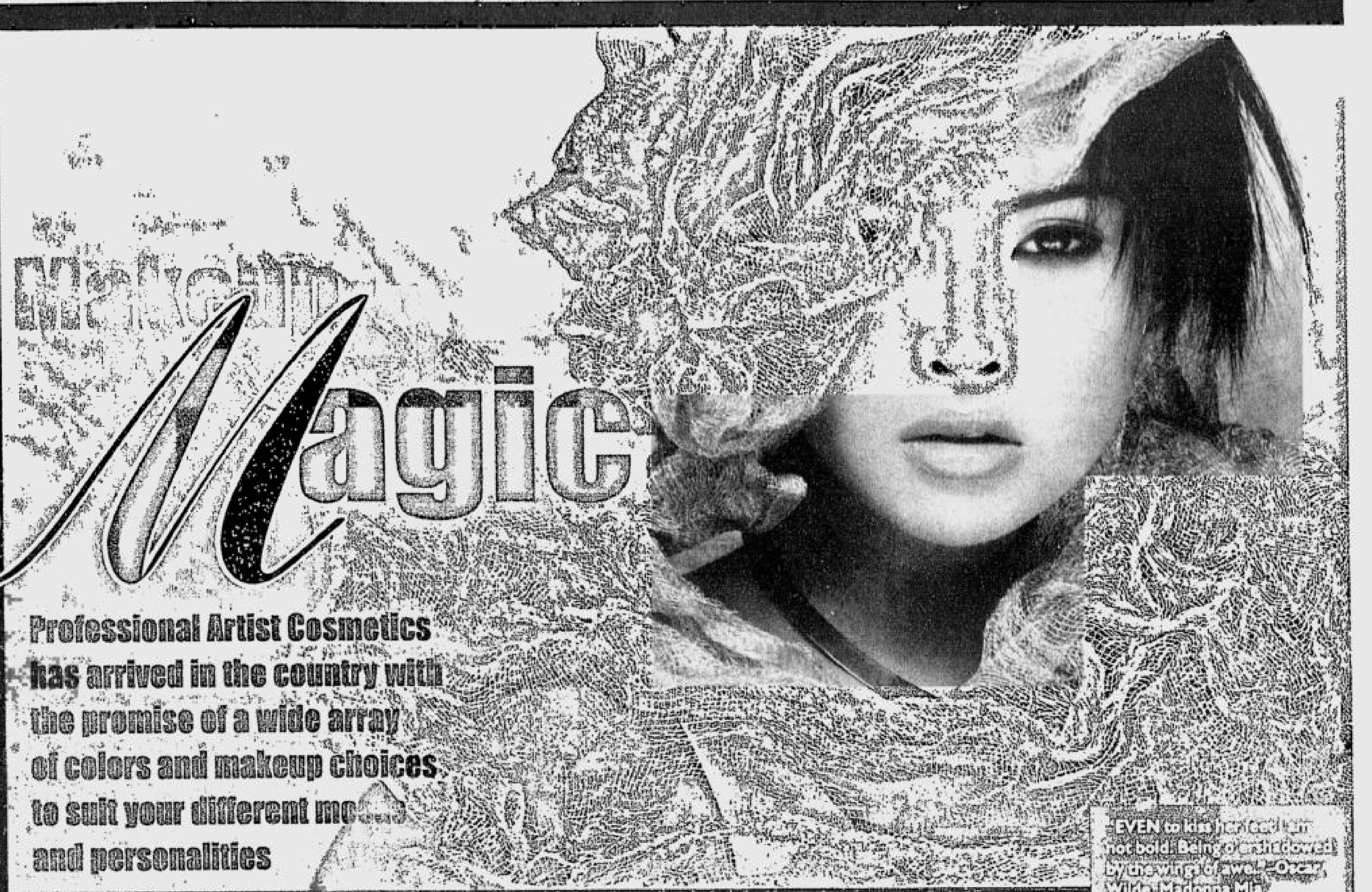


Bass

CELESTIAL Charmer romanticized by Lala Flores

DARK Angel as interpreted by Juan Sarte III

Makeup Magic



Professional Artist Cosmetics has arrived in the country with the promise of a wide array of colors and makeup choices to suit your different moods and personalities

"EVEN to kiss her feet I am not bold. Being overshadowed by the wings of awe."—Oscar Wilde, Madonna Mia

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Raymund Isaac

BETTER MAKE space in your *kikay* kit. Another makeup brand is set to conquer Manila.

The Indonesia-based PAC, one of Dr. Martha Tilaar's beauty brands, is also distributed in Europe, the United States, the Middle East, Latin America and Japan. Martha Tilaar, who started her company in 1970, operates the largest cosmetics company in Indonesia. A beauty expert who specializes in Indonesian traditional herbal medicine, she has her own salon and spa in Bali which bases its treatments on an ancient Javanese philosophy.

KGM Marketing Network is responsible for bringing PAC to the Philippines. Greg Banzon, the company's COO and managing director, said, "The color palette of Professional Artist Cosmetics is a mix of the timeless, classic and adventurous because every woman has her own distinct personality. PAC is now here in the Philippines to answer the needs of every woman without burdening her hard-earned money."

Recently, they rocked Le Pavilion with a launch to remember, hosted by Tim Yap and directed by Floy Quintos. The event's highlight was a colorful fashion show punctuated with musical performances from different women who embody the varied personalities PAC caters to—rock singer Alona, the Whiplash dancers and opera star Karla Gutierrez. Models Iza Gonzales, Marina Benipayo, Patty Bettita, Gem Padilla, Marilen Espino showcased the works of makeup artists Krist Bansuelo, Lala Flores, Jinky Ilusorio and Juan Sarte III who used PAC's offerings as tools to create hot looks.

Because the cosmetics were formulated especially for Asian women, they work really well on Filipina skin. If you want to create your own look, PAC's line of products offers a lot of possibilities. For the face, there's creamy/liquid foundation, two-way cake, loose/shimmering/face coloring powder and blush on. For the eyes, there are powder/pearly/matte color festival eye shadows, mascara and eye pencils. There are also lip products—satin-finish/velvet-finish lipstick, gorgeous liquid lip color and aqua shine lip gloss—and makeup kits, beauty kits and brushes.

PAC arms you with different palettes to create seven different looks:

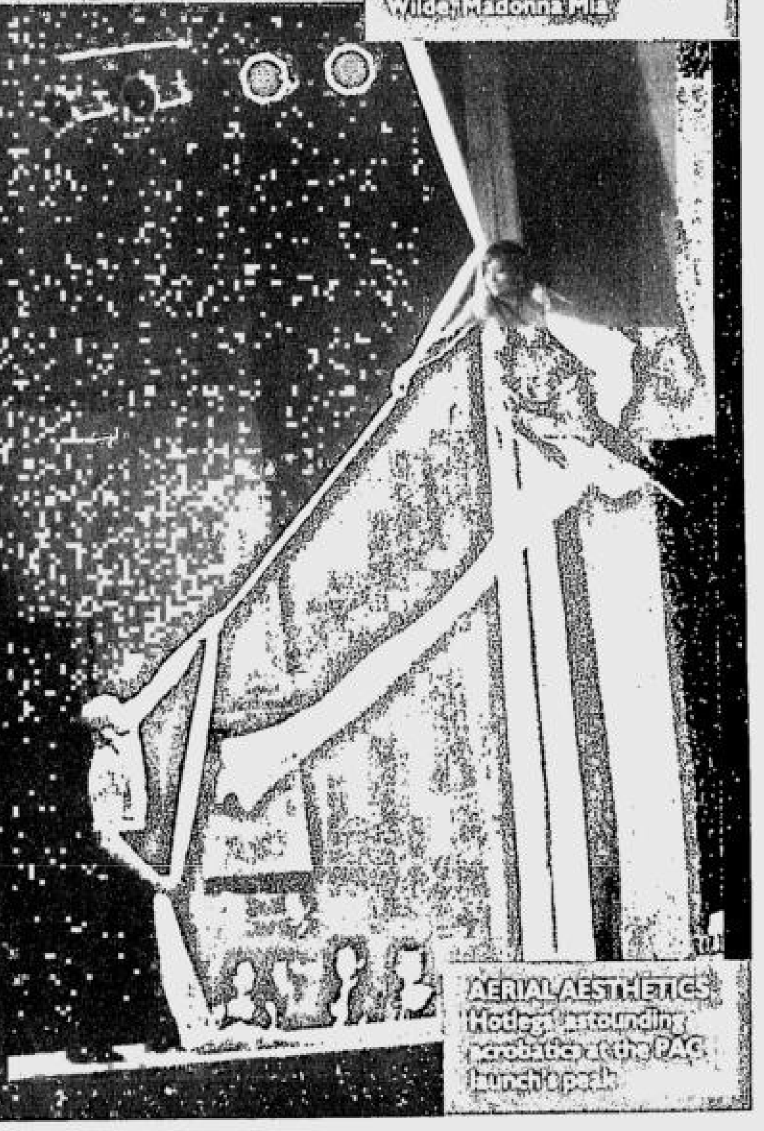
Sugar n' Spice which is sweet and sensual, Oriental Chic for the driven and the career-oriented, Dark Angel which is bold and daring, Bubblegum Babe for the young and the brave, the elegant Glamour Girl, the romantic Celestial Charmer and Exotic Enigma for the mysterious.

Which PAC personality are you?

PAC by Martha Tilaar is now available at the best beauty counters in leading department stores nationwide.

POP IT. Bubble Gum babe played by Marilen Espino

AN ENCHANTMENT OF COLORS. A musical palette performed by Gem Padilla



AERIAL AESTHETICS. Hotlegs' astounding acrobatics at the PAC launch's peak

I'M WITH THE BAND. Super heroes, unite!

H-H-HOORAY! Rachel Aguila gets the best dressed plum from Celine Lopez and Maurice Arcache

KERASTASE KISS. Salon owners give Marilyn Monroe a peck.

OUTBACK CHIC. Loutie Camba, Malou Flores, Mayette Quitco and Lyn Kho

Goldiluxe

From page E1

Calayag's H Salon for being able to maintain my platinum locks this long—I've been blonde for more than a year now!

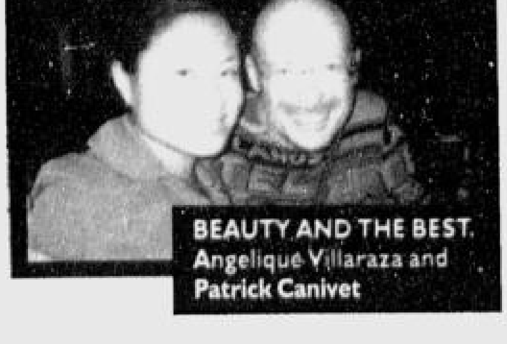
It was in 6750 where I first tried the Kerastase Hair Spa where a video of my hair follicle showed me just how healthy my hair is. A Kerastase expert then gives you a consultation on what to do and what to apply on your hair, to give it the necessary vitamins for it to survive the wear and tear of daily living. "To prevent and to restore"—just like skin care, hair care must follow the same route.

I learned that day that L'Oreal gets 3,000 formulas a year, but their team studies each one carefully so that only the most advanced applied research would go into the development of products. Thus, the need for expertise.

I guess that's why all these salon owners gathered together—to be able to up their ante in terms of the level of service and knowledge of the products they offer. Consumers today

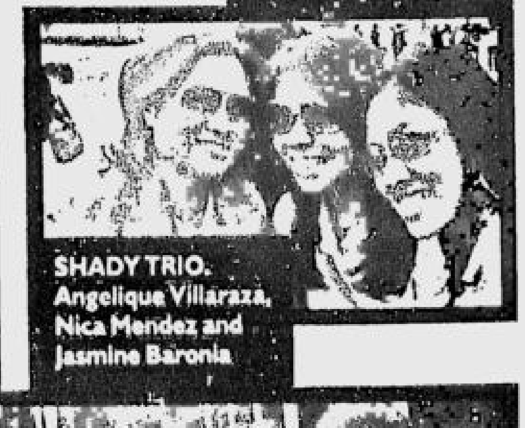
GOLDILUXE/ E4

CERTIFIED BEAUTIES. Jasmine Baronia, Nica Mendez, Liza Mauri and Jojo of Emphasis Salon



BEAUTY AND THE BEST. Angelique Villaraza and Patrick Canivet

KERASTASE team leader May Abarquez leads the way to luxury

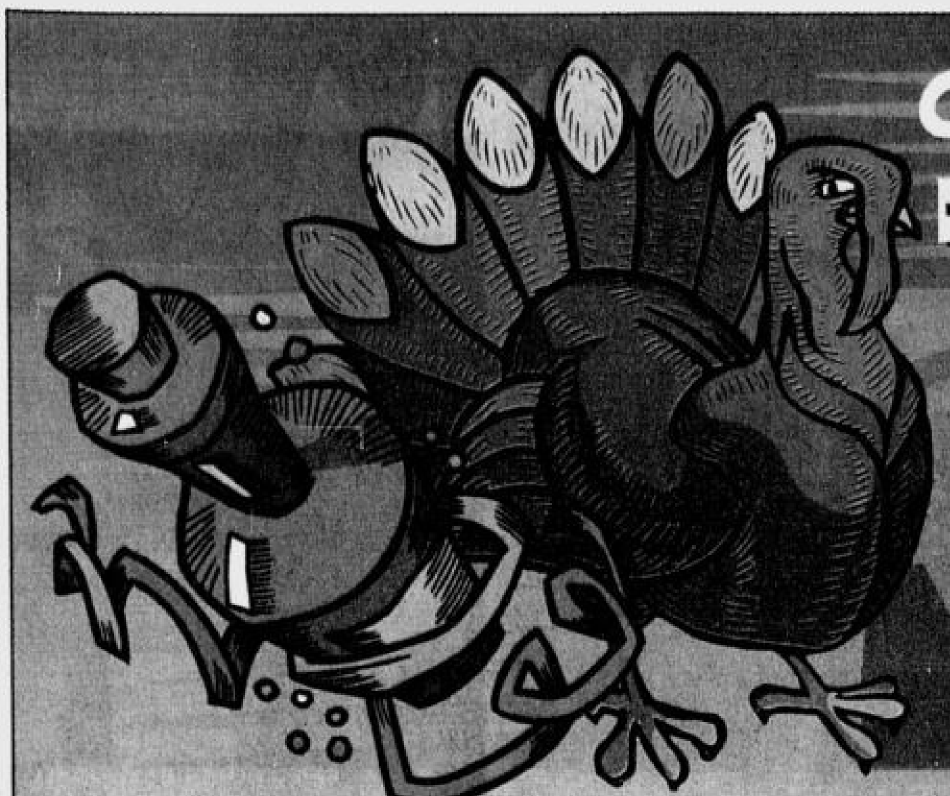


SHADY TRIO. Angelique Villaraza, Nica Mendez and Jasmine Baronia

PARLOR GAMES. Luz of Regine's Salon, Annie Agoncillo and David's Fairview muse

BLONDE AMBITION. Marilyn and I would like to thank Kerastase and H Salon...

SALON SEDUCTRESSES. Carmen Mendez, Lisa Mauri, Bing Pasco and Gina Mendez



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FROM OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 16, 2005

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2836, series of 2005

THE CHAIN MARTS!
SUPER VALUE STORES

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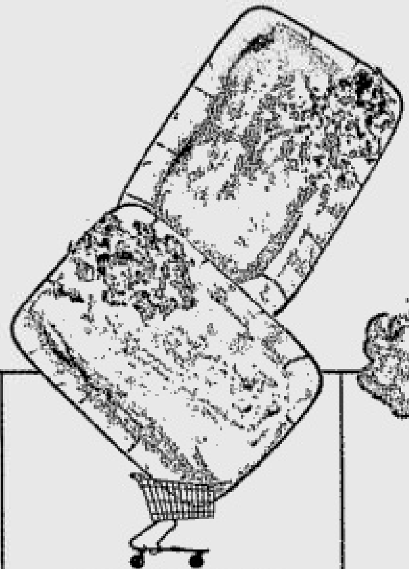
Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang Muntinlupa
Tels. 850-7687 • 809-2208 • Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

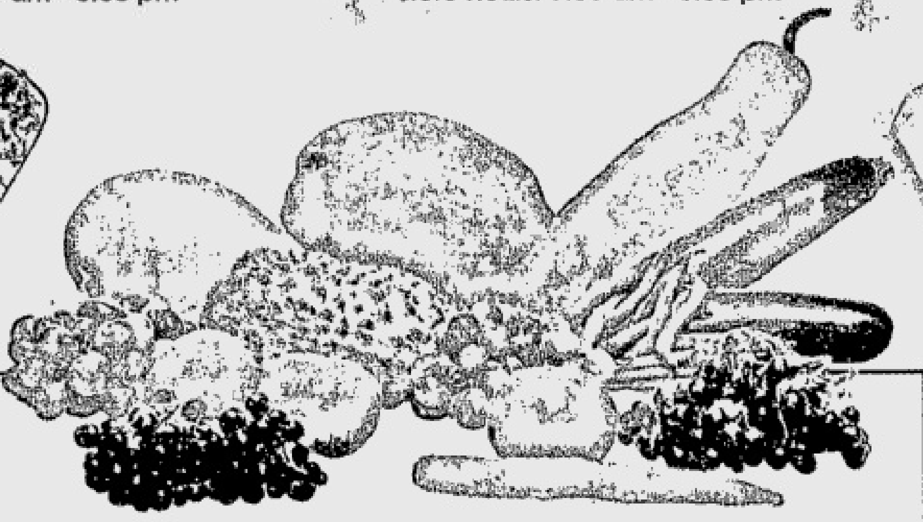
UniMart
Greenhills Shopping Center
Tels. 721-0592 • 721-0612
Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:00 pm

CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET
Buendia cor. South Superhighway
Tels. 844-7386 • 843-7382 • 843-3469
Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

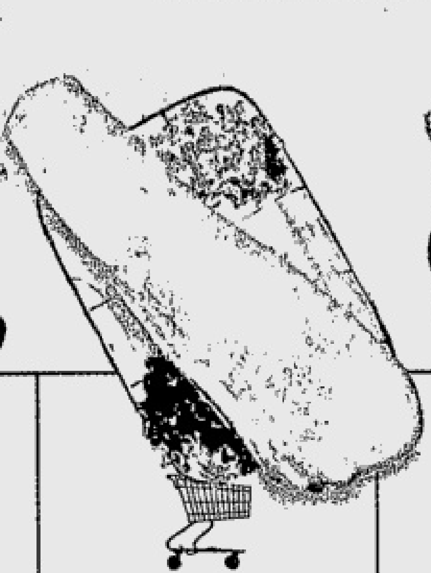
Viva España
Red Wine
750ml P115.00/bot
Casa Blanca
Semi-sweet Red Table Wine
75cl P115.00/bot



Chainmart
Pork Liver
P52.50/kg
Beef Tripe
P75.50/kg

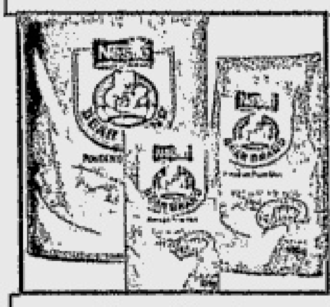


Red Globe Grapes P115.50/kg • Ruby Seedless Grapes P168.00/kg • Ponkan P73.50/kg • Guyabano P21.00/kg • Solo Papaya P18.90/kg • Red Lady Papaya P26.25/kg • Baguio Beans P52.50/kg • Baguio Cucumber P21.00/kg • Baguio Radish P31.50/kg • Upo P15.75/ea • Ginger P21.00/kg • Zucchini P42.00/kg



Chainmart
Ox Tongue
P131.50/kg

Santa Carolina
Chilean Red Wine
75cl P172.50/bot
Calvet
Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon Wine
75cl P345.00/bot

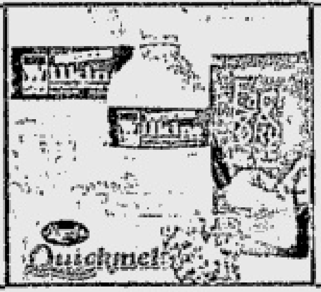


Bear Brand
Milk Powder w/ Zinc
180g P37.30/pk 400g P82.40/pk
900g P185.90/can

Purefoods
Beefies Hotdog Regular
1kg P102.50/bag
Chunkee Corned Beef
190g P25.95/can

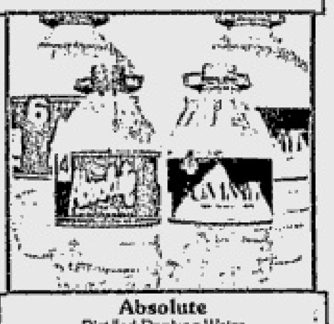
CDO
Corned Beef 150g P19.35/can
175g P22.25/can
Premium Hotdog Regular 1kg P98.95/bag
Premium Hotdog Cocktail 1kg 102.80/bag

Chamyto
(All Flavors)
P27.00/pk



Magnolia
Quickmelt 1kg P237.50/box
Earth & Sky Lemon Iced Tea 1kg P95.85/pk
Wilkins
Distilled Drinking Water 4L P49.00/jug
6L P60.50/jug

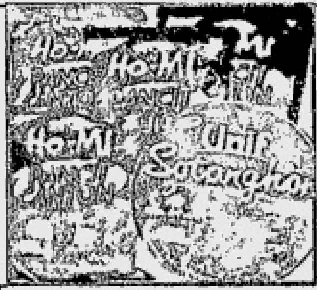
Kellogs
Cornflakes 150g P56.40/box
Frosties 175g P62.60/box
Froot Loops 180g P80.60/box
Rice Krispies 130g P46.50/box



Absolute
Distilled Drinking Water
4L P32.80/jug 6L P48.00/jug
Summit
Natural Spring Water
4L P29.20/jug 6L P44.00/jug

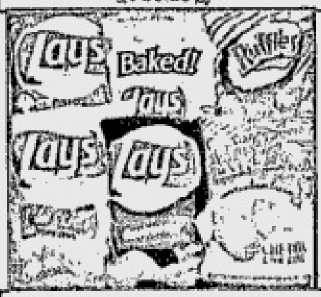
Dugro/Dumex 1 Plus
Honey, Vanilla, Choco 800g
Fine Cereals 750g P335.60/can

Frisogrow 3
Growing Up Milk
400g P195.00/can 900g P425.00/can
Frisogrow 4
Growing Up Milk
400g P185.00 900g P405.00/can



Homi
Pancit Canton Classic Tayomansi, Chili Anghang, Beef Steak 65g P4.70/pk
Unif
Sotanghon Crab & Corn 60g P19.95/bowl

Cadbury
High Light Instant Chocolate
220g P280.50/can
Cocoa Powder 250g P310.50/can
Horlicks
Chocolate, Malt, Vanilla 350g P280.50/bot



Lay's Potato Chips Regular, Sour Cream & Onion
KC Masterpiece Bbq, Salt & Vinegar
Ruffles Potato Chips Regular, Reduced Fat, Texas, BBQ, Cheddar Sour Cream, Sour Cream & Onion 184g P80.30/bag
Lay's Baked Lays Regular 110g P94.00/bag

Nabisco
Mini Oreo Bag, Chocolate Bag, Mini Chips Ahoy Bag
227g P111.50/pk

Narcissus
Spiced Pork Cubes 142g P32.50/can
Liver Spread 170g P19.90/can
Egg Rolls with Pork 397g P47.50/can

Jolly Fresh Juice
Orange, Apple, Tomato, Grapefruit
1L P48.50/tetra

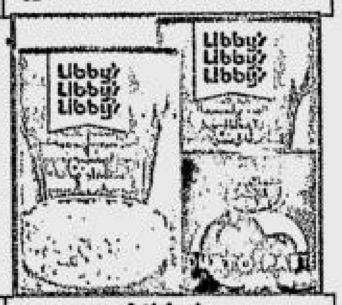
Campbell's
Cream of Mushroom USA
305g P36.50/can
Cream of Mushroom Canada
284ml P34.50/can

Campbell's
Turkey Gravy 305g P53.00/can
Hormel
Bacon Bits 85g P95.50/bot

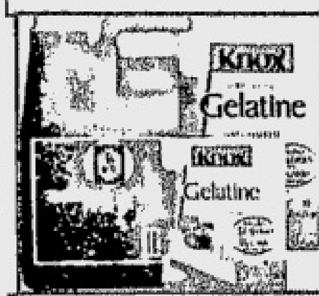
Golden Grain
Lasagna Extra Wide 454g P78.50/box
227g P56.50/box
Catelli
Low Fat, Low Sodium Lasagne
500g P82.50/box

Nabisco
Premium Cracker Fat Free, Saltine, Unsalted 454g P100.50/box
Premium Cracker Saltine 227g P85.50/box
113g P50.50/box
Chicken in a Biskit 227g P130.50/box

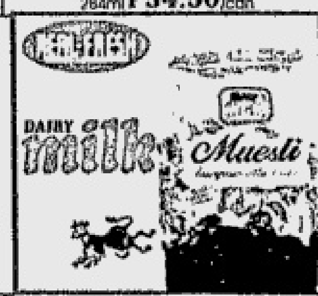
Franzia
Chillable Red Wine, California Red Wine
3L P480.00/bot
May
Sparkling Juice Red 750ml P112.00/bot



Libby's
Whole Corn, Cream Corn
426g P25.50/can
Rich Taste
Tomato Paste 198g P11.25/can



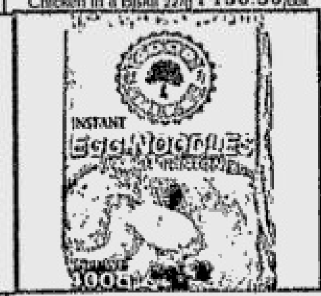
Knox
Gelatine 20g P55.50/pk
227g P375.50/box
Mermaid
Oyster Sauce 2.3kg P81.00/jug



Real-Fresh
Milk 1L P49.90/tetra
Nicoli
Happy Nick Muesli
500g P91.00/bag

Falcon's Valley
Lychees 565g P28.50/can
Leche Pascual
Chocolate Pudding
125g P31.40/pk

Doña Elena
Pure Olive Oil
1L P282.00/bot 500ml P147.00/bot
Good Life
Oyster Sauce 420ml P69.00/bot
Sesame Oil 420g P106.00/bot



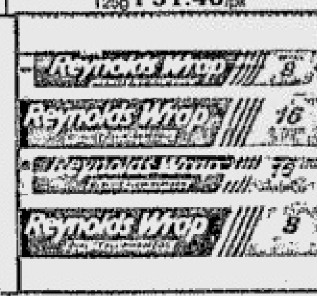
Good Life
Egg Noodles 400g P32.00/bag
Crumpy Bread
Spread Nut 400g P92.00/bot

Doña Elena
Capers in Vinegar 100g P46.00/bot
340g P101.00/bot
Carbonell
Green Olives Plain 350g P67.20/bot
360g P69.25/bot

Planters
Jumbo Cashew 170g P200.50/can
283g P300.50/can
Sweet Roast Honey Cashew Peanut
283g P190.50/can

Palmolive
Naturals Shampoo (All Variants)
100ml 36.95/bot

Rejoice
Shampoo Long 750ml P249.85/bot
400ml P146.40/bot 200ml P75.00/bot
100ml P41.15/bot
Safeguard
Soap Pink, Green 90g P9.60/bar



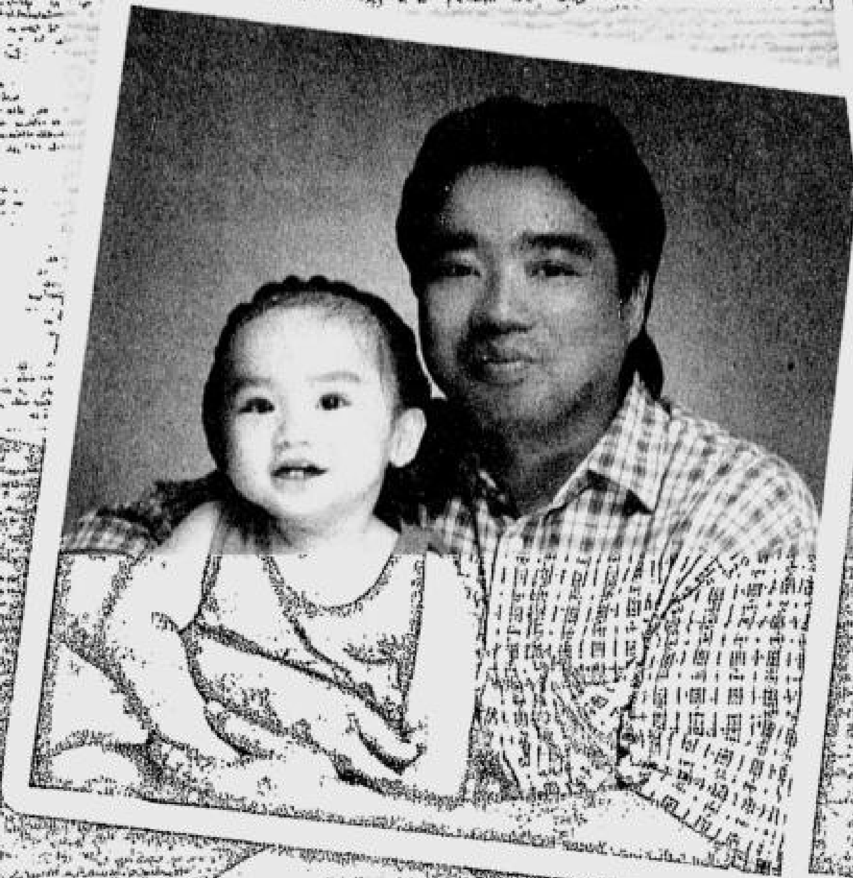
Reynolds
Aluminum Wrap Standard P63.70/box
Refill P52.30/roll
Standard P117.00/box
Refill P104.00/roll
Sampler P39.00/box

Softee Plus
Bathroom Tissue 2-Ply 12 rolls P116.50/pk
Tena
Slip Maxi Overnight
Medium 8s P229.00/pk
Large 8s P280.20/pk

Sunsilk
Shampoo Soft Touch 12ml P37.20/12s
100ml P37.35/bot 200ml P68.90/bot
Creamsilk
Soft & Straight 12ml P37.35/12s
100ml P34.45/bot 200ml P64.75/bot

Modess
Singles Cottony Soft No Wings Odor Control 12s P37.00
All Nights Maxi w/ Wings 4s P26.00
Carefree
Breathable Pantyliner P36.25
Johnson's
Baby Powder w/ Milk P44.25

Mellitta
Coffee Filter 200cts P181.00/pk
#2 40cts P91.00/box
#4 40cts P111.00/box



Drypers Wee Wee DRY with LEAK GUARDS

Presko si Baby Lou Ivan
Panalo si Virgilio

PRESKO PANALO!
RAFFLE PROMO

Congratulations to Mr. Virgilio Cacnio of San Dionisio Parañaque City
for winning the grand prize of a brand-new Toyota Innova.
Congratulations din sa 12 lucky winners of Php100,000 each.
Talagang presko-panalo sa Drypers!

At sa libu-libong sumali, MARAMING SALAMAT PO!
With entries coming from all over the country, it only shows that
mommies and babies enjoy using the extra absorbent and
cloth-like Drypers. Mga mommy, keep on using Drypers for your baby
and watch-out for more surprises and treats only from Drypers.

GRAND DRAW WINNERS OF P100,000 CASH PLUS 3 MONTHS SUPPLY OF DRYPERS

GMA/NCR
1 ROSE APRILLE F. MARIANO
"PATEROS, METRO MANILA"

2 WENEFRIDA A. DUBLIN
"BRGY. PAYATAS, QUEZON CITY"

3 CORAZON DIOLA FAJOPAL
"NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY"

LUZON
1 MARILOU MENIABLE
"MARILAO, BULACAN"

2 BLESILDA F. FAINA
"BANTON, ROMBLON"

3 MARY JANE G. TAN
"SAN JOSE, RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL"

VISAYAS
1 GLORIA GALLO
BACOLOD CITY

2 JEANE Q. DELFIN
"POBLACION STA. CATALINA, NEGROS ORIENTAL"

3 FRANCISCA D. CASIANO
"TAGAPULAN, WESTERN SAMAR"

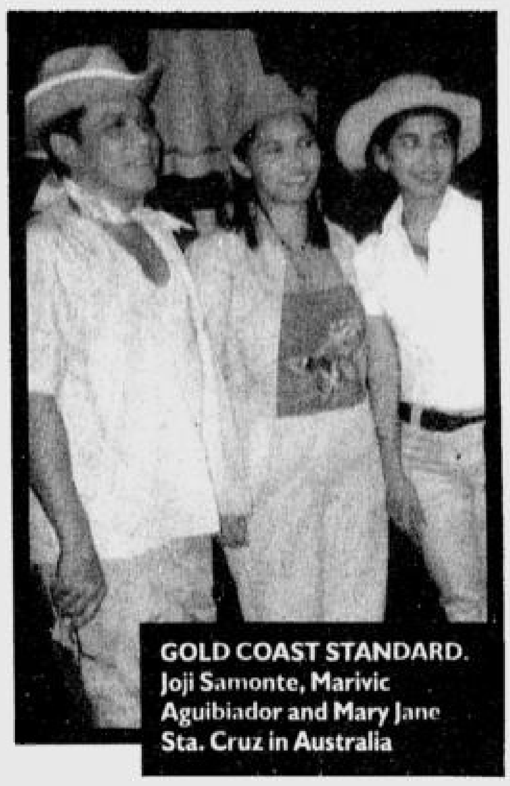
MINDANAO
1 NELIE D. ARGUTAS
"TAGLOAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL"

2 CLYDE M. HAMPAS
"POBLACIO 1, OROQUIETE CITY"

3 TETTYWANGSA L. TINGKAHAN-HUSIN
"BALIWASAN GRANDE 7000, ZAMBOANGA CITY"

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3369 Series of 2005

GMA



GOLD COAST STANDARD. Joji Samonte, Marivic Aguibiador and Mary Jane Sta. Cruz in Australia

Goldiluxe

From page E2

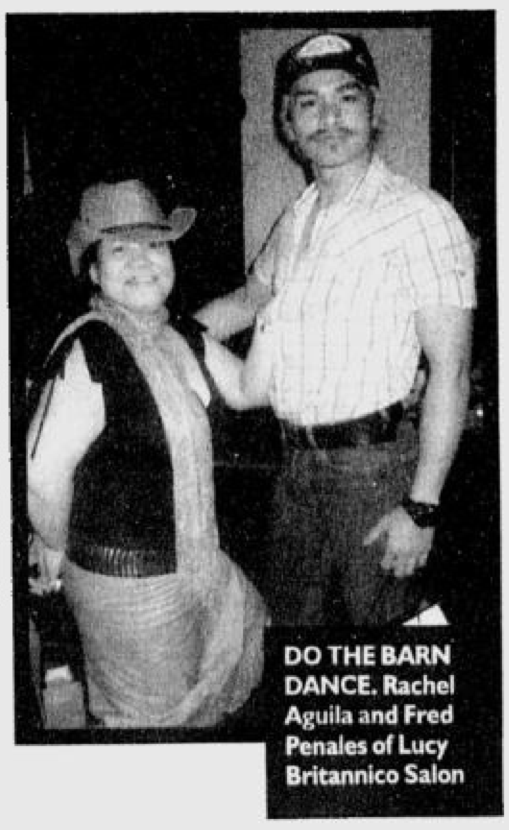
are more informed and are more demanding, thus making them difficult to obtain and maintain. Gone are the days when all a salon client wanted was, "Shampoo *lang!*"

And I thought this trip was gonna be about surfing with blonde mates, having wild, animalistic fun while soaking up the sun.

Well, we did frolic with blondes (Marilyn Monroe in the Warner Brothers Park), met a few kangaroos (Outback adventure) and ate tropical fruits (Fruit World—again, how apt)—but what I absorbed (aside from hair products) was the extremely high standards of excellence that salon owners put into their service—just to get us clients pampered.

Now *that's* luxury.

L'OREAL LOVERS. Victor Ortega of Emphasis Salon and May Abarquez of Kerastase



DO THE BARN DANCE. Rachel Aguila and Fred Penales of Lucy Britannico Salon

classic & sleek
hip & cool
stylish & practical
pretty & cute
8880 8880 7899 2015
PAMELA R GARCIA
09 2007

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now thru November 15, 2005

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sm manila sm megamall sm makati sm bacoor sm sucat sm southmall sm bicutan sm iloilo sm davao sm delgado sm cagayan de oro

Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and highlights